

Pilots to be exempt from checks



DALLAS — Amid a growing protest against stepped-up and intrusive screening of airline passengers, the government has cut a break for one very influential group of travelers — the pilots.

The Transportation Security Administration agreed Friday to let uniformed airline pilots skip the body scans and aggressive pat-downs at the heart of a national uproar. The pilots must pass through a metal detector at airport checkpoints and present photo IDs that prove their identity.

The victory for pilots followed a 2-year lobbying campaign by their union leaders that reached a fever pitch in the past two weeks. Their bid was boosted by hero pilot Chesley Sullenberger, who said pilots should be treated as “trusted partners” in the fight against terrorism.

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NATO'S TRANSITION

U.S. President Barack Obama, left, shakes hands with unidentified officials as he steps off the plane for a NATO summit in Lisbon on Friday, Nov. 19, 2010. U.S. President Barack Obama and the leaders of NATO's 27 other member nations will open a two-day summit Friday aimed at finding ways to keep the Cold War alliance relevant in the 21st century with revamped roles including ballistic missile defense, anti-piracy patrols, and counterterrorism.

Associated Press

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But just days before the hectic Thanksgiving holiday travel period, TSA chief John Pistole offered little hope of a similar reprieve for regular passengers, who have complained more loudly about the new measures. Some are urging travelers to refuse to go through full-body scanners, which produce a virtually naked image. If the loosely organized Internet campaign succeeds, security lines at the nation's airports could be snarled. Those who refuse a body scan can be forced to undergo time-consuming fingertip examinations, which include clothed genital areas and breasts, by inspectors of the same sex as the traveler. The complaints of pilots like Sullenberger, who successfully landed a passenger jet in the Hudson River in January 2009, gave weight to the movement to roll back the new procedures. With pilots apparently satisfied, the

TSA's most prominent critic may be a California software engineer who recorded himself threatening a TSA inspector, "If you touch my junk, I'll have you arrested." The pilots are avoiding that argument. American Airlines pilot Sam Mayer said it's a security matter for the TSA to decide. All he knows, Mayer said, is that intrusive screening for pilots makes little sense. A pilot intent on terrorism could simply crash the plane. No amount of imaging at the security checkpoint could stop that. Besides, under another government program to make them the last line of defense against terrorists, pilots are allowed to have guns in the cockpit. The changes promised by TSA on Friday are "basically what we've been after," Mayer said. "Pilots are not the threat here; we're the target." Mayer's union, the Allied Pilots Association, helped foment the backlash against the security measures two weeks ago. Its president,

Dave Bates, urged pilots to skip the imaging machines because of concern about frequent radiation exposure. The government and an independent group of experts say radiation is safe, as long as radiation doses are kept within the low limits set for the scanners. Bates recommended that pilots instead accept a pat-down — preferably where passengers couldn't see them. John Prater, president of the Air Line Pilots Association, which represents pilots at several major airlines, said the unions have been negotiating the changes with TSA for two years. He said changes were already in the works, but were speeded up by the backlash against the new imaging machines and searching techniques. The TSA offered few details — and no specific timeline — for changes in screening of pilots, which expand a program tested at airports in Baltimore, Pittsburgh and Charlotte, N.C.



The TSA said beginning Friday, pilots traveling in uniform or on airline business could pass security by presenting two photo IDs, one from their company and one from the government, to be checked against a secure flight crew database. Their unions said pilots could skip the pat-downs immediately. Pistole said pilots ensure the safety of millions of passengers every day, and that putting them through a faster screening process would be a more efficient use of the

agency's resources. But the TSA chief has defended the more invasive inspections of passengers, saying they were a response to intelligence about potential terrorist attacks and plots to evade airport security. Homeland security officials were alarmed last Christmas when a terrorist with a bomb in his underwear got on a flight to Detroit. He failed to detonate the explosives. Last month, terrorists tried mailing bombs hidden in ink cartridges and shipping them on planes as cargo.



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New Jonestown memorial going forward

OAKLAND, Calif. — A group of Peoples Temple survivors announced plans Thursday for a granite monument inscribed with the names of more than 900 people who died in the Jonestown tragedy 32 years ago to the day. Some ex-members have grown impatient with efforts by the Rev. Jynona Norwood over the decades to erect a 36-foot-long stone wall, like the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, at the Oakland cemetery where more than 400 unidentified and unclaimed victims are buried.

Those planning the new and competing memorial include Jim Jones Jr., an adopted son of the temple leader. Jones told The Associated Press it's time to move forward with an alternative monument four large stone slabs that would be sunk flat on the grassy mass grave site overlooking San Francisco Bay. "It's been 32 years," said Jones, who lost his parents, his pregnant wife and several other relatives in the mass murders and suicides. "I have loved ones and their name is not listed anywhere."

Norwood, whose family lost 27 relatives in the tragedy, said she would press ahead with her own memorial, even though cemetery management says it is impractical for the site. Asked about the competing plan, she said, "They want the people forgotten, so put their names on the ground."

The new memorial plans came as about 40 people attended services featuring civil rights activist and comedian Dick Gregory.

Norwood has conducted annual services that eventually attracted ex-members as it became more widely accepted that they were idealistic people betrayed by temple pastor Jim Jones, who built an integrated church with a social message. But some were put off by the religious tenor of the services or felt that Norwood excessively demonized Jones while paying tribute to the dead members. Dozens gravitated to private anniversary gatherings

here in recent years.

Another sore point emerged on the 30th anniversary service when Norwood brought the first panels of the wall on a sturdy trailer. She made clear the Rev. Jones' name would not be inscribed on the panels, saying it would be an insult to the victims. "It's like putting Hitler's name on a memorial for the Jewish community," she said Thursday. The organizers of the alternative monument believe the memorial should be all-inclusive to mark everyone who died.

Jim Jones Jr., now a medical devices salesman who is married with three sons, said his father was a victim of his own madness and he wants an inclusive monument memorializing all who died.

"We are concerned that our relatives be remembered," he said. "We are not thinking about who caused it and what happened after 32 years."

During a fact-finding mission to Jonestown in Guyana to investigate reports of abuses of members, San Francisco-area Rep. Leo Ryan, three newsmen and a church defector were ambushed and killed by temple gunmen on a remote jungle airstrip on Nov. 18, 1978. Jones then orchestrated a ritual of mass murder and suicide several miles away in the temple's agricultural commune.

Some Jonestown residents escaped before or during the violence, and other members, like Jim Jones Jr., survived because they were away that day. Fielding McGehee III, who edits the online Jonestown Report and who lost in-laws in the violence, said the necessary \$20,000 for the memorial has been raised through an anonymous donor, who will be repaid from future donations.

Two years ago, Norwood displayed the first two completed panels of what was designed to be a 7-foot-tall black wall with an 8-foot red center panel.

Norwood had to raise at least another \$70,000 in addition to the \$30,000 already spent. But she said Thursday that she has about \$2,000.

Evergreen Cemetery director Ronald Haulman said the wall was poorly suited for the sloping site because it would require more than \$200,000 in foundation work to make it safe and some caskets would likely need to be moved.

"It would be like giving an engineer a million dollars to build a home on top of Mount Kilimanjaro," he said. "It simply would never happen."

Haulman said details for construction of the newly proposed monument four gray



granite panels measuring 40 inches by 64 inches and about 3 inches thick are being finalized and it should be installed by the 33rd anniversary next year. The cost, he said, will be \$15,000 to \$20,000.

The cemetery said it would try to accommodate the massive wall elsewhere on the grounds, but Norwood said that was unacceptable. "I'm going ahead," she said, adding that she was consulting a lawyer.

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Okla. death row inmates protest new execution drug

OKLAHOMA CITY — Two death row inmates in Oklahoma are asking a federal judge on Friday to stop their pending executions after the state said it planned to substitute the anesthetic used during lethal injections because of a drug shortage.

Oklahoma is one of several states that have been scrambling after the sole U.S. manufacturer of sodium thiopental an anesthetic that renders the condemned inmate unconscious said new batches of the barbiturate would not be available until January at the earliest. Hospira Inc. has blamed the shortage on problems with its raw-material suppliers.

The Oklahoma Department of Corrections ran out of that drug earlier this year, and instead, the state plans to

substitute a similar drug called pentobarbital, which is used in animal euthanasia.

Death row inmates Jeffrey David Matthews and John David Duty have challenged the use of the new drug, alleging it would violate their constitutional rights to be free from “cruel and unusual punishment.”

Several states that have lethal injection employ the three-drug combination that was created in the 1970s: First, sodium thiopental is given by syringe to put the inmate to sleep. Then two other drugs are administered: pancuronium bromide, which paralyzes muscles, and potassium chloride, which stops the heart.

Sodium thiopental is a barbiturate, used primarily to anesthetize surgical patients

and induce medical comas. It is also used to help terminally ill people commit suicide and sometimes to euthanize animals.

Matthews’ execution has been delayed several times because of his objection to substituting sodium thiopental. Matthews was convicted in the 1994 murder of his 77-year-old great-uncle, Otis Earl Short, during a robbery of Short’s home.

Duty was convicted of the December 2001 murder of 22-year-old Curtis Wise, who was Duty’s cellmate at the Oklahoma State Penitentiary in McAlester. Wise was strangled to death with shoelaces. At the time, Duty was serving three life sentences for rape, robbery and shooting with intent to kill, all dating from 1978.



New California parole team targets sex offenders



SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Michael Harden’s problems were just beginning when agents rolled up to his cluttered trailer to arrest him for letting the battery in his GPS ankle bracelet run low, making it difficult to track the movements of the paroled child molester.

Then the agents found something even more disturbing: graphically sexual photographs on his cell phone. Seven months after he left prison, the 44-year-old Sacramento man was on his way back.

He was one of more than 285 paroled sex offenders swept up throughout California this week by recently formed law enforcement teams, which were created partly as a response to agents fumbling their attempt to monitor paroled sex offender Phillip Garrido.

Garrido is charged with kidnapping an 11-year-old girl, Jaycee Lee Dugard, and hiding her from parole agents for 18 years in a fenced-off area in the backyard of his Antioch home, where she bore two of his children.

The teams are designed to apprehend parolees who have become fugitives or are otherwise violating terms of their release.

“We’re going to look over the fences. We don’t want another Garrido,” Greg Shuman, who supervises a Sacramento-based California Parole Apprehension Team, told agents heading out for one sweep. “It’s no-tolerance. Anything, any violation, they’re going to jail.”

Five teams were created this year in different parts of California, while five more will start in January.

Money to fund them comes from savings created by a law that took effect this year. That law eliminated parole supervision for thousands of ex-convicts, some of whom served time for serious crimes.

It allows agents to focus on the parolees that state corrections officials consider the greatest risk to the public. Supervising fewer people lets agents concentrate their attention on sex offenders, gang members and violent criminals, said Robert Ambroselli, who heads the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation’s adult parole division.

Police: Australian twins had suicide pact in Colo

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. — An Australian twin who survived a suicide pact with her sister told authorities during emotional questioning that they were trying to carry out the plan at a state park shooting range but would not explain why they wanted to die.

“She was angry, upset, frustrated any of the range of emotions one must feel,” Arapahoe County Sheriff’s Capt. Louie Perea said Thursday of the surviving sister.

Each 29-year-old woman shot herself in the head with ammunition bought at Family Shooting Center, investigators said, with one twin using a rented .22-caliber revolver and the other a rented .22-caliber semiautomatic handgun.

One died Monday at the range in suburban Denver. The other is recovering from a serious head wound. No suicide note was found.

Authorities haven’t released the names of the sisters, but an affidavit filed by deputies seeking to search their hotel and luggage identified them as Kristin and Candace Hermeler.

Arapahoe County Sheriff Grayson Robinson confirmed the accuracy of the affidavit but declined to formally release the names in deference to the family.

The document said authorities didn’t know which sister had survived. Relatives were expected to arrive in Colorado on Friday.

Perea said physical evidence and surveillance video from the range supports the existence of the suicide pact.

A witness at the shooting range saw two women fall down, with one rolling around and yelling for help, the affidavit states.

An arriving deputy found one sister on her back and the other sitting on her feet. When she fell over onto her sister, the officer noticed a gunshot wound to her forehead as he rolled her away.

Deputies found a photocopy of a May 3, 1999, Time magazine cover story about the Columbine school shooting among the twins’ belongings, but Perea said the surviving sister told investigators she didn’t care about the attack.

There was nothing to indicate the sisters planned to hurt anyone else, Perea said.

The sisters, who are from Australia’s Victoria state, had been in the Denver area for about five weeks. One had gun training two weeks before the shooting, and both showed up at the range about a week later for additional gun training, Perea said.

On Monday, the sisters took a taxi to the range from their hotel about six miles away and rented the pistols. They took target practice on the chilly afternoon, prompting one sister to borrow a jacket, Perea said.

They initially shared a stall near a person firing a high-powered rifle. After the twins complained about the noise, range staff moved them to another lane.

“I don’t know if they did that to be in a more secluded area or what,” Perea said.

One of the sisters then left to place the jacket on a nearby table apparently deciding against wearing borrowed clothing for what was to follow.

Authorities said surveillance video captured the incident. It showed the sisters falling out of the stall about a half-second apart, with other patrons quickly reacting, Perea said.

The twins had been at the range about an hour and 20 minutes.

It’s not clear what they were doing in the United States.

MSNBC suspends host Scarborough for GOP donations

By DAVID BAUDER

AP Writer David NEW YORK – MSNBC said Friday that “Morning Joe” host Joe Scarborough will be suspended for donating to four Republican candidates in local Florida races, two weeks after Keith Olbermann was suspended for making political contributions to Democrats.

Scarborough said he agreed with the two-day suspension, which is the same duration as Olbermann’s.

The donations, first reported by the website Politico, came between 2004 and 2008. Scarborough, a former Republican congressman from Florida, made eight donations of \$500 apiece to campaigns for Florida offices being run by his brother, George, former congressional staffer David Stafford and family friends Don Gaetz and his son, Matt Gaetz. All are Republicans.

“Because the contributions involved local, non-competitive races — and were given for personal rather than political reasons — I mistakenly believed I did not need approval from MSNBC,” Scarborough said. “I also apologize for that oversight.”

NBC News bans political donations from its staff members unless special permission is granted by the network president.

Scarborough will be back on the air the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, said MSNBC President Phil Griffin.

“As Joe recognizes, it is critical that we enforce our standards and policies,” Griffin said.

Scarborough apologized three times in a nine-paragraph statement. That’s in contrast to Olbermann, who apologized to his fans — but not to MSNBC — for donating to three Democratic candidates during the midterm elections. Olbermann called for a re-examination and public debate about the no-donation

rule, which he suggested may not make sense during an era of opinionated cable news hosts. NBC News has given no indication that the rule is being reconsidered. Scarborough promised that political donations “will not happen again.”

“I am proud to work for

the NBC News family,” he said. “There is nothing more important than maintaining the integrity of its highly respected brand.”

Scarborough co-hosts a three-hour political discussion program with Mika Brzezinski that airs at 6 a.m. each weekday.



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Ohio town grieves after 3 missing are found

MOUNT VERNON, Ohio — After more than a week of searching and hoping, members of a tiny central Ohio town began grieving as they learned that the bodies of a missing mother, her 11-year-old son and a family friend were found stuffed into garbage bags and hidden in a hollow tree.

The discovery came Thursday, four days after authorities found the mother's 13-year-old daughter bound and gagged, but alive, in the basement of a home about a 15-mile drive from the wildlife area where the bodies were discovered.

Hours later, a vigil that had been planned near the family's home to support search teams became, instead, a memorial. Rita Bates, 60, who lives nearby, asked the question on the minds of many: "Why?" Authorities couldn't provide the answer amid an ongoing investigation.

Knox County Sheriff David Barber said investigators were led to the bodies by an unemployed tree-trimmer accused of kidnapping the girl and keeping her for nearly four days in the basement of his home in Mount Vernon, about 40 miles northeast of Columbus.

"We were optimistic a few

days ago that maybe there was a remote chance that these folks were possibly still alive," the sheriff said. "This is a homicide investigation now."

The girl, Sarah Maynard, her mother Tina Herrmann, her 11-year-old brother Kody Maynard, and family friend Stephanie Sprang were reported missing after Herrmann failed to show up for work at a local Dairy Queen on Nov. 10.

Barber said the three dead were killed in Herrmann's home in Howard, though he did not say how, and that the tree-trimmer, Matthew Hoffman, gave investigators information through his attorneys that led them to the bodies, which were removed after part of the tree was cut away.

"This is probably the saddest day in Knox County history that I can remember," prosecutor John Thatcher said. "As elated as we were Sunday morning when Sarah was rescued, I think the tragedy today is just devastating."

Barber declined to speculate on a motive, and it was unclear how well Hoffman knew the four. The sheriff has suggested that he had been watching them.

At the Herrmann home



Thursday, three purple, star-shaped helium balloons had been left in the yard and two bouquets of flowers were resting against a tree.

At the vigil, Paul Manter, a friend of Hoffman's mother and stepfather said they "can't believe that their son did this." Manter attends the same church as the couple and said they had wanted to help with the search but he advised against it.

"I wouldn't have suspected that he would do something like this," the 58-year-old Manter said of Hoffman.

Hoffman spent six years in a Colorado prison on arson and

other charges. He remained jailed on the kidnapping charge, and is the only suspect in the killings, Barber said.

The 30-year-old has appeared in court but has not entered a plea. Knox County Public Defender Bruce Malek, who is representing Hoffman, said Thursday that he could not comment.

A day after the four went missing, a deputy found what authorities called an unusual amount of blood inside Herrmann's home, and her pickup truck was found near the campus of Kenyon College. Hoffman, whose home is about 10 miles from Herrmann's, was questioned that same day Barber said police found him sitting in his car near a bike trail not far from where the pickup was found.

Investigators would not discuss details of the surviving girl's ordeal but have said she is with her father and doing well, considering the circumstances. "We're inspired by Sarah's bravery," Barber said. He said she was home at the time of the killings but added, "What she

saw, I can't speak to that."

A day after finding Sarah, authorities conceded that the others were likely dead. Still, volunteers and authorities on the ground and in the air continued to search ponds, vacant buildings and bike trails for Kody, 32-year-old Herrmann and 41-year-old Sprang. The remains were found in a wildlife preserve in Fredericktown, a rural site about a quarter mile from two churches where an Amish horse-drawn buggy passed after three white hearses had driven away.

County Coroner Jennifer Ogle said the bodies have been taken to the coroner's office in neighboring Licking County and that results would be released from her office as early as Saturday.

At the vigil, more than 100 people circled around a bonfire and sang hymns, white helium balloons were released and candles lined the water.

"It gives us closure, but sad closure," Manter said. "You always want someone to come home."

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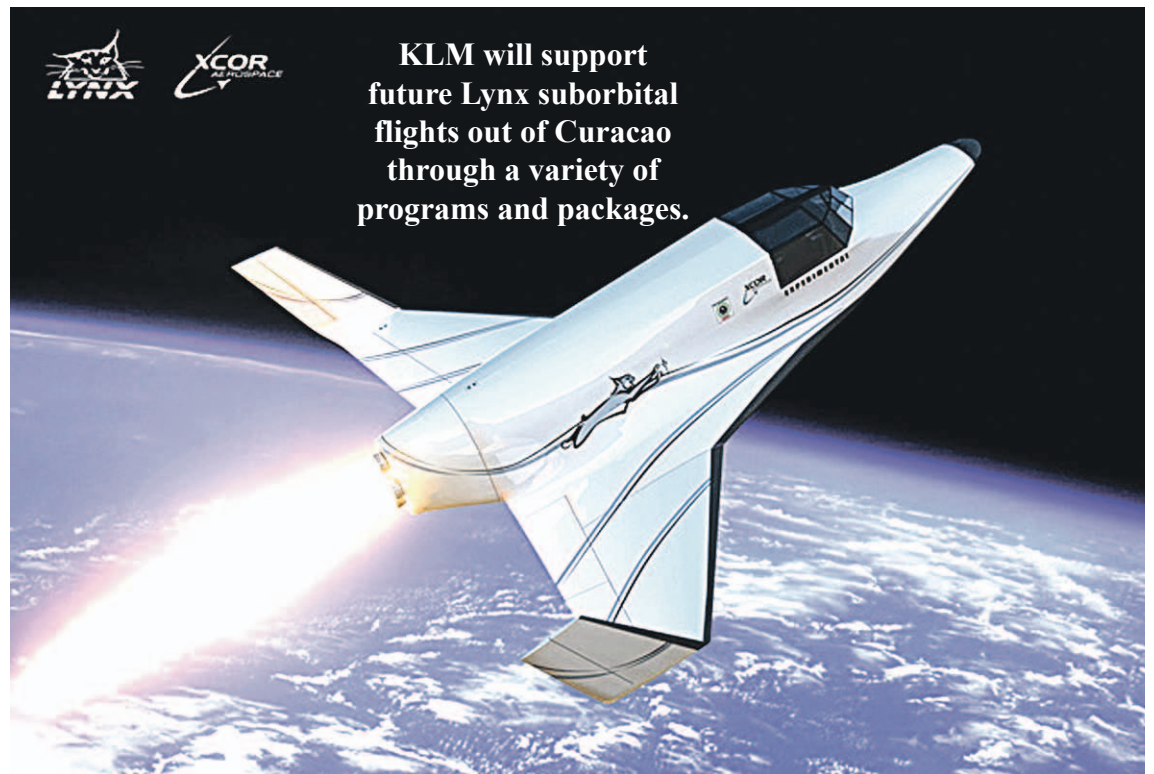


At the Radisson Aruba Resort, Casino & Spa
Century Casinos Announces Management Contract for Casino

PALM BEACH - Century Casinos, Inc. announced the execution of a long-term Management Agreement for the Casino at the Radisson Aruba Resort, Casino & Spa, effective December 1, 2010. Pursuant to the agreement, Century will provide management services (but no investment) for the operation of the casino and will receive a management fee consisting of a fixed fee, plus a percentage of gross revenue, plus a percentage of EBITDA. The 14,000 square foot casino is centrally located within the hotel and operates with approximately 250 slot machines, 15 table games and one food & beverage outlet; Carlson, owners of the Radisson Aruba Resort, Casino & Spa, selected Century Casinos as the management company after concluding a comprehensive selection process of international casino operators. The Radisson Aruba Resort, Casino & Spa is a full-service AAA four diamond property spread over 14 acres overlooking the ocean and has a total of 324 guest rooms and 31 suites, two large pools, five food & beverage outlets, meeting and banquet space, retail shops as well as a newly built Larimar Spa. The hotel and the casino will be refurbished in the spring 2011. "We are excited about this opportunity to provide casino management services to Carlson and to get a foothold in the Caribbean casino market," said Erwin Haitzmann and Peter Hoetzing, Co CEOs of the Company. development.

KLM, Space Experience Curacao Team Up For Space-flight Venture

KLM Royal Dutch Airlines, a division of Air France-KLM, is teaming up with a commercial space-flight endeavor planning to operate out the Caribbean island of Curacao, according to officials on Thursday. KLM has purchased a "few" tickets for suborbital space flights through Space Exploration Curacao, a private venture backed by two Dutch industrialists that plans to operate a two-seat Lynx spacecraft currently being developed by XCOR Aerospace in Mojave, California. Gedi Schrijver, a spokeswoman for the airline, told Reuters "we're enthusiastic about this," but declined to be more specific about the number of tickets purchased by KLM or how they would be used. The going rate for rides on the Lynx is \$95,000. In a news release jointly issued by XCOR and Space Exploration Curacao, the two companies said KLM is planning to offer suborbital flights for frequent flyer mileage redemptions and in vacation packages. Space Exploration Curacao has tentatively scheduled commercial spaceflights to begin in January 2014, although, it is waiting for US government approval for the Lynx vehicle to be located on the island of Curacao in the Netherlands Antilles. XCOR said it would provide operational support at the proposed site in Curacao.



Billionaire Richard Branson's London-based Virgin Group, is setting up its own commercial space operations in New Mexico. Scaled Composites, a subsidiary of Northrop Grumman Corp, has

begun test flights of a six-passenger spaceship it built for space line operator Virgin Galactic, which has collected more than \$50 million in deposits for rides costing \$200,000 per person. Both ventures will offer

passengers a few moments of weightlessness outside of Earth's atmosphere 65 miles above ground, also giving them a view of the planet unlike any they have seen before.

Zissles welcomes famous artist Joke de Kruijf



PALM BEACH - Zissles Director and some of the cast of dinner show D'Licious are pictured enjoying a laugh after the evening's performance with famed Dutch theatrical artist Joke de Kruijf.

Insel Air plans new flights to Colombia and Charlotte



ORANJESTAD - Curacao's Insel Air plans to add a fifth MD-80 during the first quarter of next year followed by the introduction of new service to Medellin and Bogota in Colombia and Charlotte in the USA. Speaking to ATI during the 2010 ALTA Leadership Forum Insel supervisory board member Niko Kluyver says the flights should begin in the April timeframe. Insel Air currently has an interline agreement with

Charlotte-hubbed US Airways covering service to Curacao and Bonaire. Insel already serves Miami daily from its Curacao hub, but Kluyver doesn't envision the Charlotte service cannibalizing traffic from Miami. "A lot of traffic we feed to Curacao tourism now has to go through Miami," he explains. "For some people that might be a hurdle." Insel Air's flights to Miami "are

very full", says Kluyver, "We see no shortage in demand." Beyond the new flights to Charlotte and Bogota and Medellin Insel Air in the longer-term is looking to introduce service to Brazil and Argentina. Acknowledging the carrier's MD-80 fleet doesn't necessarily have the range to reach Argentina, Kluyver says the carrier might consider another aircraft type, "depending on what type of work we do with others". Insel Air turned profits in 2008 and 2009, but Kluyver says the carrier encountered challenges this year with the Haitian earthquake and the devaluation of Venezuela's Bolivar, which has now normalised. He estimates Venezuelan passengers account for 17% of Insel Air's traffic. Kluyver says Insel Air is moving closer to joining ALTA. The company expects to complete the IATA operational safety audit (IOSA) in January, and hopes to officially join the organization soon after.

Princess passengers love Aruba

ORANJESTAD - In 2011-12, Princess Cruises will base five ships in the Caribbean. The Grand Princess will operate a 14-day "Caribbean Collection" itinerary roundtrip from Fort Lauderdale between Nov. 19, 2011, and April 21, 2012. The ship sails to Aruba, Curaçao (or Bonaire), Grenada, Barbados, St. Vincent, St. Lucia, St. Kitts, St. Thomas and Princess Cays (or Grand Turk). The Crown Princess will sail on two new roundtrip seven-day itineraries departing on Saturdays between Nov. 5, 2011, and April 28, 2012. Western Caribbean cruises from Fort Lauderdale will visit Grand Cayman, Roatan, Belize and Cozumel. The new Southern Caribbean route includes Princess Cays, Curaçao and Aruba. The "Classic Southern Caribbean" route sails to St. Thomas, Tortola, Antigua, Dominica and Barbados, while "Southern Caribbean Explorer" sailings travel to St. Maarten, St. Lucia, Grenada, Bonaire and Aruba. The Ruby Princess will operate seven-day Eastern Caribbean cruises roundtrip from Fort Lauderdale on Sundays. The itinerary features Princess Cays, St. Maarten, St. Thomas and Grand Turk from Nov. 5, 2011, to April 29, 2012. The ship will also offer a nine-day Southern Caribbean holiday sailing from Fort Lauderdale on Dec. 30, 2011, calling at Antigua, Barbados, Dominica, St. Thomas and Princess Cays. The Caribbean Princess will sail from San Juan on two alternating seven-day itineraries on Sundays. The cruises will sail between Nov. 20, 2011, and April 29, 2012. The ship starts the season with a 10-day "Caribbean Islander" sailing from New York to Fort Lauderdale on Oct. 29, 2011, featuring calls at San Juan, St. Thomas, Antigua and Aruba.

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the same day. Herby loves to share his fishing passion with the many visitors to the island. His fleet of a 35 ft. Twin Engine Bertram yacht and a 50 ft. Twin Engine Post yacht, appropriately called "Driftwood I and II, is available for charters on a daily basis from 8am to

Catch your own dinner

12 noon and from 1pm to 5pm. A charter includes: captain, mate, all fishing equipment, bait, sodas and bottled water. On a full day charter sandwiches and snacks are also included. You can call Herby directly at (297) 592 4040 or go to www.driftwoodaruba.com.

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~ Photos by Julia Renfro



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Force Reconnaissance Marines train with Dutch marines

CURACAO - As the nation's force in readiness, Marines must be prepared for combat in every climate. A combination of jungle terrain, mountains and the ocean makes the location of Royal Netherlands Marine Corps Base Camp Suffisant, on the island of Curacao, an optimal place to conduct amphibious operations training alongside Dutch marines. On Oct. 22, the Marines and sailors from Force Reconnaissance Company, II Marine Expeditionary Force, traveled to Curacao to begin their training evolution, which revolved around amphibious operations. One of the exercises conducted in the first week of training was the Dutch marines' water obstacle course. "When we come to Curacao, we are very heavily focused on our amphibious standard operating procedures," said Staff Sgt. Ryan J. Kuperus, a team leader for second platoon, Force Reconnaissance Company. "By coming to Curacao, the Marines get the opportunity to train in an environment where we can put all of the pieces together and go straight from a dive insert, or a scout swimmer insert, into a full weeklong mission while working alongside members of a foreign military. That's the importance of

coming down here." Force Reconnaissance Company makes the trip to Curacao twice a year. Typically the platoons alternate, but second platoon has had the opportunity to come both times this year, which will help prepare them for their upcoming deployment with the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit. "Coming to Curacao twice is going to benefit (the Marines) a lot for the MEU specifically," said Kuperus. "We've already developed our standard operating procedures for our scout swimmer and dive operations and now we're refining them." Curacao is one of three islands of the Netherlands Antilles in the Southern Caribbean. Curacao has a semi-arid climate with a dry season between January and September and a rainy season between October and December. The location and weather make it ideal for a variety of training exercises. "Curacao provides a robust training area where we can work on the full spectrum of our skill set," said Sgt. Josh D. Kovar, a team leader for second platoon. "The terrain is advantageous for patrolling, small unit operations, and practicing insertion and extraction." So far, the Marines have participated in underwater training, a detachment hike and



the Dutch water obstacle course. These events have taken place throughout the island and serve as preliminary exercises for the events ahead. The scheduled events will include a weeklong exercise that attempts to challenge the Marines to learn as much about the terrain as they can. "It's important to train in other places to get a more diverse look at other areas," said Kuperus.

"When we do off-site training, we get the look of different parts of the world. Down here in the tropics, the terrain is a lot different than the temperate coastal region around North

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Thai officials find

2,000 fetuses at Bangkok temple

THANYARAT DOKSONE
 Associated Press
 BANGKOK (AP) — On the grounds of a Buddhist temple, dozens of white plastic bags lay in carefully arranged rows. Each sack was knotted at the top and contained the remains of a fetus.

Thai authorities found about 2,000 remains in the temple's mortuary, where they had been hidden for a year — apparently to conceal illegal abortions. A strong stench had drawn police to the temple in Bangkok's old city Tuesday, and authorities searching the mortuary — where bodies awaiting cremation are normally kept — initially found more than 300 fetuses. They returned Friday to find more than five times that number, according to police Lt. Col. Kanathud Musiganont.

Health officials, police and charity workers counted the fetuses, placing each one in a white plastic bag bearing the name of a Chinese charity in red Thai script and Chinese characters. The charity is often involved

in the handling of remains, including recovering bodies from accident scenes and organizing burials. As the remains were laid out, Buddhist worshippers left offerings for the fetuses: milk and bananas to nourish their spirits in the afterlife. Abortion is illegal in Thailand except under three conditions — if a woman is raped, if the pregnancy affects her health or if the fetus is abnormal.

Although Thailand is home to a huge and active sex industry, many Thais are conservative on sexual matters, and Buddhist activists especially oppose liberalizing abortion laws.

Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva said Friday that more must be done to prevent illegal abortions but that his government would not revise the laws. He said his government has discussed the matter and believed that “the existing laws are appropriate and flexible enough.”

Several people have already been arrested in the case: two undertakers for hiding



Rescue workers arrange bags containing dead fetuses found at the morgue of a Buddhist temple in Bangkok, Thailand, Friday, Nov. 19, 2010. Thai police have discovered hundreds of human fetuses dumped at the morgue during an investigation that began Tuesday.
 Associated Press

bodies to conceal the cause of death and an abortion clinic employee on charges of operating an unlicensed medical clinic and performing abortions. The undertakers could each be sent to prison for up to a year and fined 2,000 baht (\$67). The clinic employee — who police said confessed she had delivered the fetuses to the morgue workers starting early this year — could face up to five years in jail and a fine of 10,000 baht (\$333).

Suchart Poomee, 38, one of the undertakers being questioned, confessed Tuesday that he had been hired by illegal abortion clinics to destroy the fetuses,

police said. He said he had been collecting the fetuses since November 2009. It was not clear why they had not yet been cremated. Police Col. Sombat Milintachinda said the fetuses found Friday seemed to have been hidden for a longer period of time than those found earlier in the week. Public Health Minister Jurin Laksanavith said around 1 million Thai women get pregnant each year, with 60,000 suffering miscarriages and another 80,000 getting legal abortions. He gave no estimate for the number of illegal abortions. Illegal abortion “requires

efforts from both the government and the private sector to promote better understanding about sex among the Thai youngsters,” Jurin said. Suriyadeo Tripathi, the director of Thailand's National Institute for Child and Family Development, said young people were getting mixed messages, and sex education needs to be improved. “On the one hand, you see many campaigns trying to promote safer sex, but on the other, a lot of people still strongly encourage abstinence and retain a stigma against premarital sex,” he said.

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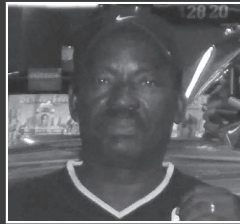
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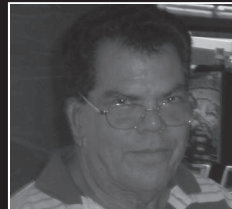
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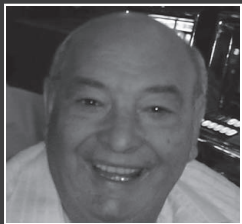
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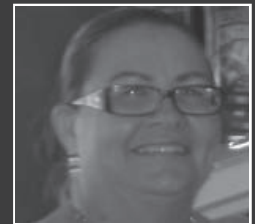
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NATO to turn Afghan security control over by 2014

ALAN CLENDENNING
SLOBODAN LEKIC

Associated Press

LISBON, Portugal (AP) — NATO will start drawing down its troops in Afghanistan next July and its combat role in the war-torn nation will end by 2014 or earlier so security can be turned over to the Afghans, a top alliance official said Friday.

“We think that goal is realistic, and we have made plans to achieve it, but of course if circumstances agree, it could be sooner, absolutely,” said Mark Sedwill, NATO’s top civilian representative in Afghanistan.

Sedwill said the troop withdrawal starting next year will be “shallow” and eventually accelerate but did not elaborate.

The escalating war in Afghanistan, where the alliance is struggling to contain Taliban militants, looked set to dominate a two-day NATO summit opening Friday in Lisbon.

NATO spokesman James Appathurai also said the alliance’s 28 leaders, including President Barack Obama, were poised to approve the withdrawal plan. He said NATO is “quite confident of the end of 2014 timeline for handing responsibility to Afghan security forces” as requested by Afghan President Hamid Karzai.

Appathurai and Sedwill did not say how many NATO troops would stay in Afghanistan after 2014 serving as military advisers and trainers or in a support role.

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, who arrived in Lisbon ahead of Obama, met for an hour Friday with Karzai, a State Department official said.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss a private meeting, said the session at Karzai’s hotel was “candid and friendly” and covered key aspects of the NATO mission in Afghanistan — including the planned transition to Afghan security control, as well as international civilian assistance to Kabul.

They reached a “common understanding” on outlines of



U.S. soldiers walk past the scattered parts of a vehicle used in an explosion on the outskirts of Kabul, Afghanistan, Friday, Nov. 12, 2010. A suicide car bomber blew himself up as a NATO convoy passed by his vehicle on the outskirts of the Afghan capital on Friday, wounding two troops, officials said. Associated Press

a longer-term Afghan-NATO partnership, the official said. NATO officials say they expect unanimous support from the allies for Obama’s plans for a new, expanded missile defense system in Europe that would be based on an existing shield meant to defend military units from attack. The U.S. already has a missile defense system based mainly in North America, and it is planning one for its European allies.

But Obama will face tough questions from U.S. allies on his exit strategy in Afghanistan. He will also meet with leaders of the European Union on Saturday to defend his preference for stimulus spending at a time when many European nations are enacting economic austerity measures. The NATO leaders are expected on Saturday to endorse the plan by Gen. David Petraeus, the top U.S. and NATO commander in Afghanistan, to start handing over responsibility for security in some areas of Afghanistan to government forces next year.

Obama told El Pais, Spain’s leading newspaper, he expected the allies will pledge additional trainers for Afghan security forces.

“This effort is going to take time and our commitment to Afghanistan and the Afghan people is for the long-term,”

Obama said. “We cannot turn our backs on the Afghan people.”

Clinton defended the high cost that European nations are paying for their participation in the war in Afghanistan, and urged them to stay the course despite dire economic difficulties for many countries that have translated into wage cuts, lost jobs and massive government budget reductions.

“Though we are very supportive of the difficult decisions that will have to be made concerning the economy, just as back home President Obama is making difficult decisions concerning our own economy, we believe that the mission we are pursuing in Afghanistan must continue,” Clinton told reporters.

The alliance has 140,000 troops in Afghanistan, two-thirds of them Americans. The government’s security forces are being built up to just over 300,000 members. Their Taliban opponents are estimated to number up to 30,000 men.

Allied commanders have highlighted their successes this year against Taliban insurgents in Helmand and Kandahar provinces, to emphasize that transition is ready.

But allied casualties have also reached record levels of some 650 dead this year, and the

Taliban have spread out into other parts of Afghanistan.

In most provinces, the transition to Afghan-led security is expected to take 18-24 months, said a senior NATO official who spoke on condition of anonymity because plans had not been officially announced. Although, the official said, NATO and Afghan forces have regained the initiative from the rebels, the situation still could turn around.

The official also said that NATO was aware it was “working against the clock” because Afghans are more opposed now to a foreign troop presence than they were earlier in the nine-year war.

On other issues, NATO’s newly expanded anti-missile shield would cost €200 million (\$273 million) over the next 10 years, according to NATO chief Anders Fogh Rasmussen, who also wants Russia to cooperate in the project. Despite claims by protesters that debt-plagued Europe can’t afford it amid austerity cuts, alliance officials insisted the project is worth it.

“We think it’s a good thing to have a missile defense system which is NATO-based,” Britain’s Defense Secretary Liam Fox told BBC Radio 4’s Today program. “That provides us with communal protection over the years

ahead, it’s cost-effective for us, and there are some 30 countries now which either have or are developing ballistic missiles.”

NATO’s leaders will not explicitly identify any potential enemy, although in the past officials have publicly singled out Iran and its ballistic missile program. But alliance member Turkey, which maintains close ties with Tehran, refused to let NATO name Iran as a threat.

“We cannot accept that any specific country (including) our neighbor Iran to be shown as a target,” Turkish President Abdullah Gul said. “It is absolutely out of the question.”

Founded in 1949 to counter the threat of a Soviet invasion, the 28-member alliance is in the midst of a mid-life crisis as it searches for relevance almost 20 years after the collapse of its communist rival.

Other elements of NATO’s new mission statement expected to be adopted Friday include new roles such as cyber-warfare and missions outside NATO’s traditional area in Europe, such as anti-piracy patrols off the Somali coastline.

NATO’s previous strategic concept focused mainly on its peacekeeping role in places like Bosnia and Kosovo. It was adopted in 1999, soon after the end of the Cold War and before the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks in the United States forced the alliance to take on missions such as counterinsurgency warfare in Afghanistan.

The new document will also warn European governments not to slash defense spending at a time of economic crisis, because of the growing discrepancy in military capabilities between the United States and Europe’s NATO members. Most European nations are not even meeting the minimum requirement of devoting 2 percent of their GDP to defense.

America’s latest defense budget of over \$710 billion dwarfs the combined annual military expenditures of its European allies, which total about \$280 billion.

Serb church strips ex-Kosovo bishop of ranks

JOVANA GEC

Associated Press

BELGRADE, Serbia (AP) —

The Serbian Orthodox Church stripped a former Kosovo bishop of his ranks on Friday after he tried to regain control over monasteries and openly challenged the church leadership. The church said in a statement that it made “this very hard and painful decision” because its former bishop, Artemije, openly broke the church laws.

The dispute between ex-Bishop Artemije and the church leaders is the most serious clash within the Serbian church in years. It reflects the divisions between the moderates and the hardliners in this Balkan nation.

Artemije is staunchly anti-Western and conservative. The church removed him from the post in February amid allegations that

millions of dollars in church and state funds had been embezzled under his leadership.

Artemije has denied any wrongdoing and has refused the church’s orders to retire. He has gathered his followers and demanded that he be given back his post in Kosovo.

On Friday, Artemije defied the church by breaking into a monastery in northern Kosovo and holding a liturgy there with his followers.

Serbian media reported later Friday that Artemije and his followers also tried to take control of other monasteries in Kosovo.

The church statement said police have detained at least two of Artemije’s supporters outside the Crna Reka monastery in southern Serbia, close to Kosovo.

There was no immediate

comment from the police.

While serving as the spiritual leader of Serbs in Kosovo, Artemije had ordered his clergy to cease contact with Kosovo’s ethnic Albanian authorities and the EU mission there after Kosovo declared independence from Serbia in 2008.

The decision to demote Artemije to the position of a monk was brought during the ongoing gathering of the church elders Friday. The church also said it would file criminal charges against Artemije over the attempted takeover of the church property.

The current Serbian Patriarch, Irinej, is considered to be a moderate. He took over the church’s helm after the death last year of his predecessor, Patriarch Pavle.



In this Saturday, Feb. 16, 2008 file photo, Archbishop Artemije, a former Serbian Orthodox bishop, leads a mass in St. Dimitrije church in the ethnically divided town of Kosovska Mitrovica, Kosovo. The Serbian Orthodox church has on Friday, Nov. 19, 2010, expelled Artemije from its ranks, after he has broken into a monastery in Kosovo to hold a liturgy despite his retirement, openly clashing with the church leadership. Associated Press



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Search delayed for 29 miners in New Zealand



Emergency service personnel and family members of mine staff go into the Pike River offices in Greymouth after an explosion ripped through the coal mine Friday, Nov. 19, 2010. About 30 people were underground at the mine near Atarau when the accident occurred. Five workers, dazed and slightly injured, stumbled to the surface, while more than two dozen are missing.

Associated Press

RAY LILLEY

Associated Press

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP) — Rescue crews waited impatiently Saturday outside one of New Zealand's largest coal mines for the go-ahead to begin a search for 29 men missing after a powerful gas explosion struck deep underground.

Two dazed and slightly injured

miners stumbled to the surface hours after the blast shot up the 354-foot-long ventilation shaft at the Pike River mine on Friday. Video from the scene showed blackened trees and light smoke billowing from the top of the rugged mountain where the mine is located, near Atarau on New Zealand's South Island.

A company official had earlier

said that five men had come out of the mine, based on information provided by the two men who had surfaced. By Saturday morning, however, officials had seen no sign of the other three men.

By daybreak, no communication had been received from any of the missing workers, the company said, and rescuers were unable to enter the mine because of the risk of a buildup of explosive methane gas.

"There could be another explosion," said mine safety expert David Feickert, who noted that officials don't yet know what caused the original ignition, and rescuers will enter the mine only when it is safe.

Peter Whittall, Pike River Coal Ltd.'s chief executive, said officials would have enough analysis in six to eight hours to decide whether a rescue team can go in, adding that the missing miners would have to deal with such hazards as air pollution, high levels of methane and carbon dioxide, and low levels of oxygen.

Each miner carried 30 minutes of oxygen, enough to reach oxygen stores in the mine that would allow them to survive for

"several days," said Pike River chairman John Dow.

"This is a search and rescue operation, and we are going to bring these guys home," police superintendent Gary Knowles told reporters. Unlike the accident in Chile, where 33 men were rescued from a gold and copper mine last month after being trapped a half-mile underground for 69 days, Pike River officials have to worry about the presence of methane, Feickert said.

He added, however, that the Pike River mine has two exits, while the mine in Chile had only one access shaft that was blocked.

It could be days before it is safe enough for special teams to enter the mine, said Tony Kokshoorn, mayor of nearby Greymouth.

Electricity went out shortly before Friday's explosion and that failure may have caused ventilation problems and contributed to a buildup of gas. The power outage continued to frustrate efforts Saturday to pump in fresh air and make it safe for rescuers.

"They're itching to get in there and start looking for other people and a bit frustrated at having to stand and wait," said police

spokeswoman Barbara Dunn. "There is concern that ventilation inside the mine shaft may be compromised by the power outage."

Kokshoorn was hopeful the missing workers could survive like the Chilean miners, whose rescue — played out on live television — captivated the world. "We are holding on to hope," Kokshoorn said. "Look at Chile, all those miners were trapped and they all came out alive." Whittall had said Friday that 27 were missing, but on Saturday he told a news conference the number was 29 — 16 miners employed by the company and 13 contractors.

"Our hearts and thoughts go out to the miners and their families. We will do anything humanly possible to aid the miners and to rescue them," Prime Minister John Key said.

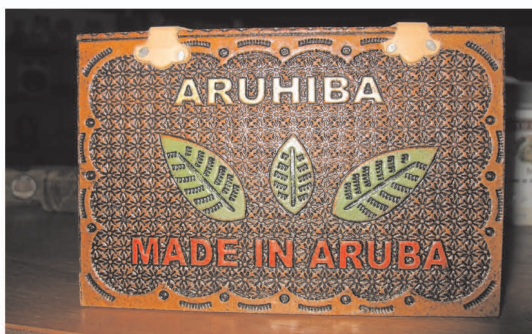
The coal seam at the mine is reached through a 1.4-mile horizontal tunnel into the mountain. The seam lies about 650 feet beneath the surface. According to the company's website, the vertical ventilation shaft rises 354 feet from the tunnel to the surface.

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South Africa's Caster Semenya crosses the finish line to win the women's 800m during the Notturva di Milano International Athletics meeting in Milan, Italy, in this Thursday, Sept 9, 2010 file photo.

Associated Press

IOC, IAAF to issue guidelines on gender cases

By STEPHEN WILSON
AP Sports Writer
LONDON — International sports officials are completing guidelines on how to deal with athletes with ambiguous sexual characteristics.

Arne Ljungqvist, chairman of the IOC's medical commission, said Friday that rules on gender determination will be issued soon to help resolve an issue that gained global attention with the dispute involving South African runner Caster Semenya.

Ljungqvist said the rules will apply for the 2012 London Olympics and also serve as recommendations for all international federations to follow in their own sports.

Continued on page 8



Martinez-Williams: a fight for the fans

DAVE SKRETTA

AP Sports Writer
NEW YORK (AP) — Sergio Martinez defends his WBC middleweight title against Paul Williams in Atlantic City on Saturday in a rematch of one of last year's exceptional fights.

Neither has major name recognition, but

they're perhaps the two best fighters in the world after Manny Pacquiao and Floyd Mayweather Jr., and they always leave everything in the ring.

"I know there's been a lot of stuff said, people are saying all kinds of stuff to hype up the fight, but I really don't have a whole lot to say," Williams said this

week.

"I know Sergio will bring his A-game with him, but I've been in there with him, just like he's been in there with me. We know what to expect. There's going to be some fighting."

Continued on page 3

No. 10 Alabama routs Georgia State, 63-7

By JOHN ZENOR

AP Sports Writer

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — Greg McElroy completed 12 of 13 passes for 159 yards and two touchdowns and No. 10 Alabama routed fledgling Georgia State 63-7 on Thursday night.

It was the most points for the Crimson Tide (9-2) since a 66-3 win over Vanderbilt in 1979.

The game against a Football Championship Subdivision team competing in its first year of college football was predictably little more than a warmup for next week's showdown with No. 2 Auburn. The Panthers (6-5) are led by former Tide coach Bill Curry, who was more accustomed to being on the other side of

Bryant-Denny Stadium abuse. McElroy set an Alabama single-game completion percentage mark of 92.3 with a minimum of 10 attempts. Mark Ingram ran for 86 yards and a touchdown and Julio Jones caught seven passes for 86 yards and two scores before the stars yielded to the backups in the second quarter. Next up is a much bigger challenge, with the Tide trying to stop Cam Newton and end the Tigers' national championship hopes. This was just a one-sided, don't-get-anybody-hurt prelude. The game did feature one big milestone. It was the 20th straight win at Bryant-Denny Stadium, matching the second-longest such streak in school history.

Alabama had four interceptions — one returned for a touchdown — and Brandon Gibson took a blocked punt 22 yards for another score. The Tide came into the game in a five-way tie for the national lead in picks. Alabama had more players score (eight) than the Panthers' first-down total of seven. Georgia State's only points came on Albert Wilson's 97-yard kick return in the second quarter, when the Panthers were already down 42-0. Alabama had 24 first downs and dominated in total yardage, 478-165. Ingram and McElroy each moved up the career charts in this one. McElroy passed Mike Shula and Andrew Zow to move



Alabama quarterback Greg McElroy (12) reacts following a Crimson Tide score against Georgia State in the first half of an NCAA college football game, Thursday, Nov. 18, 2010, at Bryant-Denny Stadium in Tuscaloosa, Ala. Associated Press

into third on Alabama's list with 37 touchdown passes. Ingram tied John Parker Wilson for third with 43 total touchdowns.

The Panthers started the game with Drew Little's 55-yard pass to Emmanuel Ogbuehi, but didn't have another play longer than 12 yards after that. Little finished 4 of 11 for 69 yards.

Alabama was up 42-0 after 25 minutes, with McElroy and Jones playing pitch and catch. Jones caught touchdown passes of 8 and 10 yards. Ingram scored on a fourth-and-goal after getting stuffed on third down from the 1. Plenty of Tide players got into the act, though. Freshman linebacker C.J. Mosley returned an interception 41 yards for a touchdown, his second interception return of the season. Gibson's return also came in the 28-point second quarter.

Eddie Lacy rushed for 81 yards for Alabama, which held out tailback Trent Richardson for the second straight game with a knee injury. He was hardly needed and is expected to play against Auburn. Backup quarterback A.J. McCarron played much of the game, going 7-of-9 passing for 57 yards and a touchdown.

NBA Roundup

Magic too much for Nash-less Suns



Orlando Magic point guard Jameer Nelson (14) drives past Phoenix Suns power forward Earl Barron (30) for a shot during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Orlando, Fla., Thursday, Nov. 18, 2010. Orlando won 105-89.

Associated Press

ORLANDO, Florida (AP) — The Orlando Magic easily handled a Phoenix Suns team playing without Steve Nash in a 105-89 win

sidelined because of a sore groin, backup point guard Goran Dragic had 10 points, four assists and four rebounds. Grant Hill scored 21 points

in the NBA on Thursday. Jameer Nelson had 15 points and a season-high 12 assists, Dwight Howard added 20 points and 12 rebounds, and every starter scored in double digits for the Magic, who built a 32-point lead and blew past the Suns from the opening tip. Orlando has won three straight.

With Nash

in the lone bright spot for the Suns, who lost on consecutive nights in Florida by a combined 43 points. Trail Blazers 86, Nuggets 83 In Portland, Oregon, Portland rallied in the second half to edge Denver. LaMarcus Aldridge scored 24 points and Wesley Matthews added 20 for the Blazers, who trailed by as many as nine points after halftime, but outscored Denver 17-12 during the fourth quarter to pull out the win. Aldridge hit 9 of 20 shots and grabbed 10 rebounds during a 41-minute performance. Matthews, starting his second consecutive game in place of injured Brandon Roy, hit three consecutive 3-pointers during the second

quarter.

Pacers 107, Clippers 80 In Indianapolis, Danny Granger scored 22 points as an undermanned Indiana overwhelmed lowly Los Angeles. Roy Hibbert had 18 points and eight rebounds, while Brandon Rush and A.J. Price each added 14 points for the Pacers, who shot 51 percent from the field to make up for the absence of starters Darren Collison and Mike Dunleavy. Collison sat out with a sprained ankle, while Dunleavy missed the game because his wife was in labor.

Indianapolis native Eric Gordon had 19 points for the Clippers.

Martinez

Continued front page B1

When they met last December, Williams and Martinez traded first-round knockdowns before spending the next 11 rounds trading punches, delighting the few thousand fans who made it inside Boardwalk Hall's Adrian Phillips Ballroom to see them touch gloves.

Both of them were bruised and battered, but they never stopped throwing punches until the final bell sounded. Then they both raised their arms in victory, and for good reason — one judge scored the fight even while the other two favored Williams just enough to give him the nod. It was a Fight of the Year candidate that could have gone either way.

"We've read a lot of stories the last few months about the fans, media, everyone wanted to see the biggest and best fights that could be made," Williams promoter Dan Goossen said. "No argument this is one of those fights."

Perhaps the most incredible part of their first meeting is that it shouldn't have even

happened.

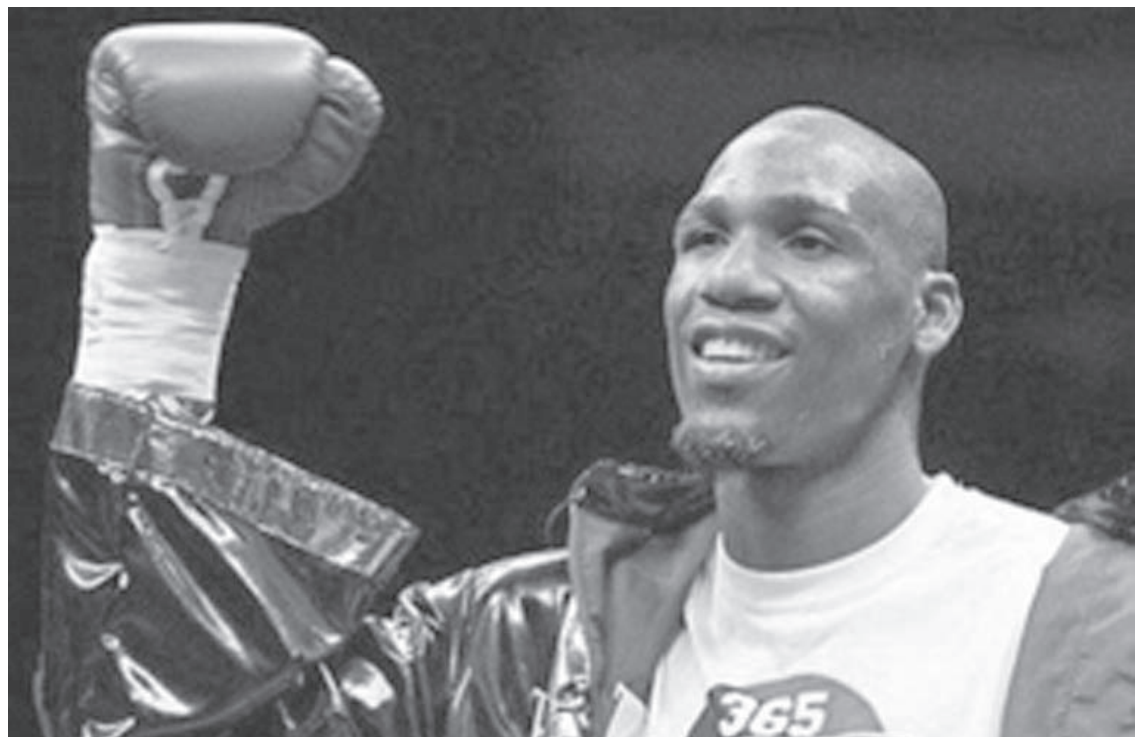
Williams was supposed to fight Kelly Pavlik for the middleweight title, but the bout was scrapped after multiple delays. Martinez stepped in as the replacement on short notice.

Williams and Goossen have argued ever since that the three-time champion would have won handily had Williams been able to prepare specifically for Martinez, a slick left-hander whose quickness and style are much different than slow, power-punching Pavlik.

"I've been predicting all along," Goossen said, "he's had a full training camp, prepared for Sergio this time, and that's a big, big difference."

Despite all the plaudits for their first meeting, the rematch wasn't made right away.

Williams hoped to land a lucrative fight against someone like Pacquiao or Mayweather at welterweight, where he once held a title. But his lanky 6-foot-1 frame creates matchup problems for most smaller fighters, and his relatively unknown stature outside of hardcore boxing fans means he had



Argentina's Sergio Martinez hopes a change in strategy will produce a victory when he fights a rematch with Paul Williams, seen here in 2009, on Saturday for his World Boxing Council middleweight crown.

Associated Press

virtually no shot of luring some of the bigger names into the ring.

Williams finally ran out of time, and alternatives, and agreed to face Martinez, who in the meantime won a bloody decision over Pavlik to claim the middleweight throne.

"He stole my belts," Williams said, "and I'm going to get them back."

Just about the only criticism of their rematch is rather than meeting at the middleweight limit of 160 pounds,

Williams demanded there be a catchweight of 158 pounds. He had been training to fight at a lighter weight and felt he was at a disadvantage, even though he's a couple of inches taller and has a much longer reach than Martinez.

"As a man, and a fighter, I'm ashamed of them to fight for a title at a catchweight," Martinez said through a translator. "I would never do that. If I need to challenge someone, I would do it in the weight of the division."

Fans hardly care about two

pounds, though. Even the most casual observer wants to see back-and-forth action, something that has become increasingly rare these days in boxing.

Williams and Martinez sound like they're ready to provide it.

"I will fight him, I will box him, I will attack him when the time comes," Martinez said. "I'm ready for a war, and that's what we're going to give Saturday night, a real war."



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NFL Preview: Hey, remember the champion Saints?

BARRY WILNER

AP Pro Football Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Praise is flying toward the Atlanta Falcons and Philadelphia Eagles. The powerhouses in New York and New England are drawing headlines. Does anyone remember the New Orleans Saints?

The Super Bowl champions haven't set the NFL on fire this season so it seems like they're being ignored.

But the Saints have a 6-3 win-loss record and are in contention for the NFC South division title or a wild-card playoff berth. Their defense is improved and they're beginning to get healthy coming off a bye and heading into Sunday's home game against the Seattle Seahawks.

"We'll just keep flying under the radar, keep just winning games however we can and let the chips fall where they may at the end," star quarterback Drew Brees said. "Everybody can talk about whoever they want as being maybe the favorite. There's going to be plenty of speculation, but we plan on being there."

It wouldn't be a shock. New Orleans has played most of the schedule without its top

two running backs, Pierre Thomas and Reggie Bush.

It's also had injuries in the secondary, but Darren Sharper is back and Tracy Porter is getting healthier.

Seattle arrives with a 5-4 record, leading its division, the weak NFC West, and ranks 30th in offense and 27th in defense. Quarterback Matt Hasselbeck has two broken bones in his left wrist, but the right-hander expects to play at the Louisiana Superdome.

"They're still the world champions and they're the world champions until the next one is crowned," Seahawks linebacker Lofa Tatupu said. "I don't think people realize that. It doesn't matter if you beat them in the regular season. They're a team that is used to making the playoffs and know how to win. This game is definitely big for both teams to get a win, especially an NFC opponent."

The Saints expect to play sharply in the dome, and everywhere else the rest of the way.

"We haven't played as well in the first half of the season as we wanted to at times, but I feel like we are starting to hit our stride," Brees said. "I



In this Dec. 7, 2008, file photo, New Orleans Saints running backs Pierre Thomas, left, and Reggie Bush walk off the field after an NFL football game against the Atlanta Falcons at the Superdome in New Orleans. New Orleans has begun to get its offense on track, but needs Thomas and Bush to get healthy.

Associated Press

feel like we're getting a lot of guys healthy and this is when you want to be playing your best football."

One of the greatest quarterback rivalries in NFL history resumes on Sunday when the New England Patriots and Indianapolis Colts meet for the eighth straight season. Typically, both teams are in first place in their divisions.

In 2004, the Colts' Peyton Manning set an NFL record with 49 touchdown passes. Three years later, New England's Tom Brady broke it with 50.

Brady has three Super Bowls this decade and Manning one, but Manning has an unprecedented four MVP awards, and Brady one.

In the last decade, Indianapolis has the most regular-season wins, 115. New England has the most overall, 133, counting playoffs and Super Bowls. Patriots coach Bill Belichick is scheming like a mad scientist to thwart the prolific Manning, who already is

somewhat hampered by injuries to key teammates. This one might be decided by whether the Colts, particularly defensive ends Dwight Freeney and Robert Mathis, can pressure Brady. Brady has won 25 consecutive home games as a starter, tying him with Brett Favre for the league record. Control of the NFC East and potentially the entire conference is at stake when the Eagles host the New York Giants. Nobody has been more impressive in the last two weeks than Michael Vick, DeSean Jackson and the Eagles. Vick, who hasn't turned over the ball all season, looked like he was playing a video game last Monday while accounting for six touchdowns in the rout of the Washington Redskins. Jackson has become the best deep threat on a gridiron. The Giants, of course, have a much better defense than does Washington, but it was shelled last weekend, too — by Dallas, which had lost

five in a row. New York is weakened at receiver and wants no part of a shootout with the Eagles.

"Growing up, we were always the ones who were taught we have to bring the intimidation," Giants safety Deon Grant said of defensive players. "So when the offense intimidates a defense, you have problems."

Also on Sunday, it's Green Bay at Minnesota, Oakland at Pittsburgh, Washington at Tennessee, Houston at the New York Jets, Atlanta at St. Louis, Tampa Bay at San Francisco, Baltimore at Carolina, Arizona at Kansas City, Detroit at Dallas, Cleveland at Jacksonville, Buffalo at Cincinnati. Denver is at San Diego on Monday.

On Thursday, the swarming Chicago Bears defense allowed only 187 yards and a single third-down conversion in winning 16-0 to send the injury-ravaged Miami Dolphins to their second home shutout in 40 years.





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1985 redux? Bears shut out ailing Dolphins 16-0

By STEVEN WINE

AP Sports Writer

MIAMI – With the outcome decided, the stadium nearly empty and the final seconds ticking down, many of the remaining fans were Chicago rooters chanting “Let’s go Bears!” And the Bears kept coming, blitzing the Miami Dolphins to put an emphatic stamp on a 16-0 victory.

“Coach let us keep going at the end of the game,” linebacker Brian Urlacher said. “We didn’t want to give up any points. Anytime you have a chance that late in the game for a shutout, you might as well try to keep it. They’re really hard to get in the NFL.” Urlacher and Julius Peppers led a swarming defense that allowed only 187 yards and a single third-down conversion Thursday night, and the Bears sent the injury-ravaged Dolphins to their second home shutout in 40 years.

Peppers had three of the Bears’ six sacks. Urlacher had a sack, a tackle for a loss and a quarterback hurry. “It’s nice to get a couple sacks,” Peppers said. “It’s even nicer to get that goose egg.”

The Bears (7-3) registered their first shutout since Nov. 19, 2006, against the Jets. Playing in Miami for the first time since losing the 2007 Super Bowl to Indianapolis, Chicago earned its third victory in 12 days and moved a half-game ahead of Green Bay atop the NFC North.

As usual, the Bears won with defense. The offense mustered only one scoring drive of more than 40 yards, but that was more than enough.

“The way the defense is playing, we didn’t have to do much,” quarterback Jay Cutler said.

Miami’s already-depleted offense lost Pro Bowl receiver Brandon Marshall to a right hamstring injury and center Cory Procter because of a left knee injury. And with third-string quarterback Tyler Thigpen struggling in his first NFL start since 2008, the Dolphins were no match for a Bears defense that took over the NFL lead in points allowed per game.

“Offensively, we’re embarrassed what we put on the field,” Thigpen said.

The Dolphins (5-5) lost at home in prime time for the third time this season. Coach Tony Sparano declined to blame injuries for the dismal showing.

“Those are excuses,” he said. “I’m not going to use them. I don’t want my team to use them. This is the NFL. The next guy has to step up.”

Even after the whistle, the Dolphins had trouble doing things right. Marshall drew a flag for taunting when he flipped the ball at former Denver teammate Cutler, standing in front of the Bears bench. “Brandon’s a competitor,” Cutler said. “I was getting on him before the game, telling him he



Chicago Bears defensive end Henry Melton (69) gestures after sacking Miami Dolphins quarterback Tyler Thigpen during the first quarter of an NFL football game, Thursday, Nov. 18, 2010, in Miami. Bears defensive tackle Matt Toeaina (75) looks on.

Associated Press

wasn’t going to catch any balls today. He’s such a competitor, he’s just fired up.”

Marshall was also penalized for an illegal block and dropped two passes before he limped out of the game in the second quarter.

The Dolphins were blanked for the first time since a 3-0 loss at Pittsburgh during their one-win season in 2007. Their only other home shutout since the first year of the Don Shula era came in

2001.

Perhaps Procter was fortunate to miss most of it. He had no access to TV while being treated for his injury. “The room I was in, there was nothing,” he said. “And I had no service on my phone, so I couldn’t get updates.” Matt Forte carried 25 times for 97 yards and a score for the Bears, who converted 10 of 18 third-down situations and controlled the ball for nearly 38 minutes.

The Dolphins went 1 for 12

on third down, and a 46-yard kickoff return to start the game created their best scoring threat. They moved inside the Bears 35 for the first time on the game’s final play. Thigpen, pressed into duty after Chad Pennington and Chad Henne were hurt in Sunday’s win over Tennessee, finished with respectable stats — 17 for 29 for 187 yards. But he lost 39 yards on sacks, and Miami’s three running backs combined for only 12 yards rushing.

Renewed Nadal seeks improvement in London

CAROLINE CHEESE,
AP Sports Writer
LONDON (AP) — Rafael Nadal describes the ATP World Tour Finals as one of the hardest tournaments for him to win, but he shouldn't have much of a problem improving on last year's result. His confidence low following a succession of injuries, Nadal left London a year ago without so much as winning a set in three straight losses in the group stage of the season-ending event. Twelve months on, the 24-year-old Spaniard returns after a dominant year in which he won three Grand Slam titles and regained the No. 1 spot.

"When you are not playing well and you don't feel competitive, it's not a nice feeling, but that's part of sport," Nadal said Friday. "It can happen again. Hopefully not, but you're playing the best players in the world in the most difficult conditions of the year for me."
"I'll try my best to change the situation this year."
Nadal missed last week's Paris Masters with shoulder tendinitis, but says his body is "perfect" ahead of his first match against Andy Roddick on Monday. The eight-player tournament begins Sunday. While Roger Federer chases a



Rafael Nadal of Spain talks to the media in London ahead of the ATP World Tour Finals, Friday, Nov. 19, 2010. The ATP World Tour finals will be held in London at the O2 Arena starting Sunday, Nov. 21.
Associated Press

record-equaling fifth title at the end-of-season event, Nadal is still seeking his first on an indoor surface he describes as "not my specialty."
"If I'm not playing my best tennis, it's almost impossible for me to win matches on this surface," Nadal said. "If it's clay, that changes the situation a little bit: I have more time, more chances. Here it's very difficult.

"The surface here is not very slow, not very fast, it's average, but for me the problem is the bounce. Sometimes the feeling is like the ball is dead. It's easier for me to play well when the ball has a bigger bounce, but that's the conditions."
For that reason, Nadal, who will also face Novak Djokovic and Tomas Berdych in Group A, says his hardest opponent

will be Roddick — because the American is his first opponent, and Nadal won't look beyond that match.

While the conditions may not be ideal, at least confidence shouldn't be a problem this time around. Since April, Nadal has won seven titles, including the French Open, Wimbledon and the U.S. Open.

Victory in New York made him the seventh man to win all four Grand Slam titles in his career, and by September, he had already tied up the year-end No. 1 ranking. Nadal's lead at the top is such that Federer conceded it will be "very difficult" for him to reclaim the top spot next year. "Last year it was difficult to imagine doing something like that," Nadal said. "But sometimes the sport changes like this.

"I wasn't playing well last year but I practiced a lot and every day when I wake up, I wake up with the (hope) of changing the situation. That's what I did and finally it changed."
The turning point, Nadal said, was winning in Monte Carlo, ending almost a year without a title, and then recapturing the French Open title.

"After that, everything was a little less difficult, I played with more calm, more confidence," he said. "Because I won those tournaments, the rest was possible."

Winning the title London's O2 Arena would put the seal on a stellar season. After that, Nadal will have just a short break before he targets another piece of history at January's Australian Open, where victory will mean he holds all four Grand Slams.

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Former NHL coach Pat Burns dies at 58

SHERBROOKE, Quebec – Former NHL coach Pat Burns, who led the New Jersey Devils to the 2003 Stanley Cup title, died of cancer on Friday. He was 58.

Burns battled cancer of the colon and the liver in 2004 and 2005 and hoped he had beaten the disease, but in January 2009 doctors found it had spread to his lungs.

“Just as they will remember Pat for his success as a coach, hockey fans also will remember his humor, his honesty, his humanity and his courage,” NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman said in a statement. “As it mourns the loss of an outstanding contributor to the game, the National Hockey League sends heartfelt condolences to Pat’s family and friends.” Burns became the Devils coach in 2002, leading the team to a 46-26-10 record and 108 points. New Jersey beat the Anaheim Mighty Ducks in seven games to win the franchise’s third Stanley Cup title in his first season.

“On behalf of the ownership, management, staff, and players of the New Jersey Devils, we are all deeply saddened by the loss of Pat Burns,” Devils President Lou Lamoriello said in a release. “Pat was a close friend to us all, while dedicating his life to his family and to the game of hockey. He has been part of our family here in New Jersey for eight years.”

Burns also coached Boston, Toronto and Montreal, reaching the Stanley Cup finals with the Canadiens and twice leading the Bruins to the playoffs.



This March 26, 2010 shows former National Hockey League head coach Pat Burns in Stanstead, Quebec, Canada. Burns, who enjoyed instant success wherever he coached and who capped his tumultuous career by guiding the New Jersey Devils to Stanley Cup glory in 2003, has died of cancer. He was 58

NHL Roundup

Lightning beat Flyers in 15-goal game

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Steven Stamkos had his second hat trick of the season and added two assists as the Tampa Bay Lightning overcame a two-goal deficit to beat the Philadelphia Flyers 8-7 in the NHL on Thursday. The 20-year-old Stamkos leads the NHL with 19 goals and 35 points.

Nate Thompson scored the winner in the third period, flicking a rebound of Dana Tyell’s shot past backup goalie Brian Boucher.

It was the only goal of the final period after a breathless opening two periods.

The nine goals of the first period were the most in an NHL game since 1991-92, while 14 over two periods was the most since 1986-87.

The result snapped a seven-game home winning streak for Philadelphia.

Adam Hall, Ryan Malone, Brett Clark and Steve Downie also scored for Tampa Bay,

and Martin St. Louis had five assists.

Nikolay Zherdev scored twice for Philadelphia, and Andreas Nodl, Jeff Carter, Scott Hartnell, Danny Briere and Andrej Meszaros also scored. Predators 3, Canadiens 0

In Montreal, the hosts winning streak was ended at four games by Nashville.

Pekka Rinne made 30 saves for his second shutout of the season and 16th of his career.

Marcel Goc scored twice for the Predators, with the other goal from Cal O’Reilly.

Stars 5, Sharks 4, OT

In Dallas, Mike Ribiero scored the overtime winner for Dallas after capping a two-goal comeback in the final three minutes of regulation against San Jose.

James Neal scored the second of his two goals on the night with 2:35 left in regulation, and Ribeiro tied it at 4-4 off a scramble in front of the net 29 seconds later. Ribeiro



Tampa Bay Lightning center Nate Thompson (44) scores the go-ahead goal past Philadelphia Flyers goalie Brian Boucher (33) as defenseman Chris Pronger (20) looks on in the third period of an NHL hockey game, Thursday, Nov. 18, 2010, in Philadelphia. Tampa Bay won 8-7. Associated Press

backhanded a rebound past Sharks goalie Antti Niemi for the overtime winner.

Brad Richards also scored for Dallas.

Logan Couture, Joe Pavelski, Scott Nichol and Patrick Marleau scored for Sam Jose, playing its third game in four nights.

Bruins 4, Panthers 0

In Boston, Milan Lucic scored Boston’s first three goals in the victory over Florida.

Lucic scored late in the first period, then added two goals in a 15-second span late in the third for his second career hat trick. He has 10 goals this season.

Tuukka Rask made 41 saves for his first victory of the

season, while Shawn Thornton scored the final goal.

Maple Leafs 3, Devils 1

In Toronto, Jonas Gustavsson made 29 saves to help Toronto defeat New Jersey.

Mikhail Grabovski, Phil Kessel and Kris Versteeg scored for the Maple Leafs.

Dainius Zubrus scored for struggling New Jersey.

Secretive talks suggest progress in doping probe

ANDREW DAMPF
JOHN LEICESTER
AP Sports Writers

PARIS (AP) — A U.S. federal probe into doping in cycling, including whether Lance Armstrong cheated, appears to have made significant headway and may be closer to its end, say officials who attended or were briefed on meetings with American agents this week at Interpol headquarters.

The size of the U.S. delegation, larger than previously known, and the fact that it traveled all the way to France for two days of talks with police officers and other officials from at least three European countries where Armstrong and some of his teammates and support staff have over the years competed, trained and lived, was, in itself, an indication of the importance of the snowballing probe, European officials said.

One European participant said he'd been expecting to meet no more than two or three people at Interpol's high-security compound in the south-central French city of Lyon. He was surprised to be ushered into a conference room where at least a half-dozen American officials were arrayed across the table.

This official said he told himself, "This is no joke. This is serious, this is hard-nose. It was not a sightseeing trip."

The official and other participants at the talks or those briefed on them spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity in part because the U.S. delegation requested that the meetings not be discussed publicly. Several

European officials said they were concerned that leaks could jeopardize the judicial process and do not want to endanger the probe by talking about it openly and in detail.

"This is a very complex procedure and it can only work within a judicial frame," said one European who met with the Americans.

While federal authorities have not disclosed who they are scrutinizing, dozens of interviews by the AP with people involved in the case have pointed to a broad investigation that began with cyclists who had records of doping. It then turned toward Armstrong, who has consistently denied using performance-enhancing drugs and has hundreds of clean doping tests as evidence.

At Interpol's glass and concrete HQ, which is guarded by an electric fence, security cameras and police, Novitzky and other U.S. investigators did not go into detail with the Europeans about their findings, which cyclists they are focusing on or what evidence they have gathered, two European officials said.

However, both came away with the firm impression that the U.S. probe has progressed. One said it appeared to be nearer its end than its beginning. Both said the Americans did not seem to be looking to Europe for evidence upon which to build their whole case.

Instead, the U.S. investigators were interested in how to obtain information that could support evidence already gathered in the United States. At least one

meeting focused on the legal procedures that would need to be followed for evidence to be transferred from Europe to the United States, said a senior police officer briefed on the talks.

One of those leading the probe is federal agent Jeff Novitzky, who hounded baseball star Barry Bonds for years and wrung a confession from disgraced Olympic sprinter Marion Jones.

"He's going through all of Europe's trash cans. And sometimes you find things in a trash can," one participant said of Novitzky. "They need supplemental proof to back up everything they have gathered."

The police officer added that U.S. investigators appeared to be building a significant case.

"As we say in our jargon, they have some marbles to play with," he said.

Armstrong spokesman Mark Fabiani described the investigator's trip as wasteful and unnecessary.

"American taxpayer money is being squandered on a European trip for FDA investigators to dredge up old allegations that have already been thoroughly examined and completely discredited," he said. "All of Lance's samples were clean when they were first provided and tested, and no amount of tax-money-wasting European meetings can change that fundamental fact."

Italian prosecutor Benedetto Roberti, who has carried out numerous doping investigations from his base in Padua, said he led a four-member Italian delegation, which included



An exterior view of Padua's Justice palace Friday, Nov. 19, 2010. Italian prosecutor Benedetto Roberti has confirmed that he met with American investigators at Interpol headquarters in France this week regarding an international inquiry into doping in cycling.

Associated Press

police from Padua and Florence, to the Interpol talks. France was represented by officers from a unit that specializes in sports doping cases and by officials from the French anti-doping agency, the AFLD, which has stored Armstrong's urine samples from the 1999 Tour de France and some of the six other Tours which the cancer survivor and campaigner also won.

Belgium also sent police and magistrates to the "informal and informative" talks, said Lieve Pellens, a spokeswoman for the Federal Prosecutor's Office.

Interpol, which has no powers of arrest or investigation but which helps police forces around the world work together, facilitated the meetings and its headquarters

offered a guarded and convenient place to meet away from prying eyes.

Roberti, in an interview with the AP, refused to speak in detail about the U.S. probe. However, he indicated that the Americans are focused on Armstrong. Roberti also confirmed that he ordered the raid last week on the Tuscany house of Armstrong teammate Yaroslav Popovych to aid the American investigation. He said the contents of the Ukrainian rider's personal laptop and Blackberry are being checked.

Another participant described the meetings as very productive, saying many cycling topics were discussed and that Armstrong wasn't the sole focus.

IOC, IAAF

Continued from page B1

"What we are aiming at is finding ways to establish rules and regulations for participation ... in female competition," Ljungqvist said in an interview with The Associated Press. "I am hopeful we will arrive at that."

Ljungqvist declined to give details of the recommendations, saying they are still under consideration and likely will be submitted for approval to the International Olympic Committee executive board in January.

The IOC is working with

track and field's governing body, the International Association of Athletics Federations, which is to review the gender issue at its council meeting this weekend in Monaco.

"They will hopefully have some general principles approved," Ljungqvist said. "This needs to be a step-by-step procedure. Our hope is that, in the end, we will be able to clarify this whole matter to the satisfaction of the sports community."

The IAAF said Friday it was still working on rules for "hyperandrogenism," a condition characterized by excessive production of male hormones.

"This work is now at an

advanced stage and will be finalized in the coming months," the IAAF said in a statement. It said the full documents will be presented for approval at its next meeting in April in Daegu, South Korea, and should go into effect on May 1. The IAAF will also complete in the coming months all necessary technical and logistical arrangements required to set up a global system for the management of future cases on a worldwide basis," the statement said.

The initiative is meant to bring clarity on a condition that is sometimes referred to as "intersex" — in which a person has reproductive or sexual anatomy that doesn't

fit typical definitions of male or female. Semenya dominated the women's 800 meters at the 2009 world championships in Berlin. Her dramatic improvement in times and muscular build led the IAAF to order gender tests, and she was not allowed to run. Amid acrimony between the IAAF and Semenya and South African officials, the case dragged on for 11 months before the IAAF cleared Semenya to run again in July. The IAAF has refused to confirm or deny Australian media reports that tests indicated Semenya had both male and female sex organs.

The IOC and IAAF have organized two conferences

on gender verification, one with scientific and medical experts and the other with athletes, lawyers and human rights groups. "We had them all at the table and we arrived at some conclusions which are now being dealt with," Ljungqvist said. "The meetings have been very helpful." After the first meeting in Miami last January, Ljungqvist told the AP that experts recommended the establishment of medical centers around the world where doctors would diagnose and treat athletes with what he called "disorders of sex development." Most cases, Ljungqvist said, require treatment such as surgery or hormone therapy.

A New NATO for a New World

Members of my generation tend to look at security through the prism of the Cold War, as if the geopolitical map were a huge game of Risk. They think of big armies, set-piece battles, and countries changing colors after a roll of the dice. There is a comforting logic to this vision. The game makes sense, largely because 'security' in this context is narrowly defined as the freedom from territorial attack.

I suspect that for most young people, the Cold War is like the Peloponnesian War -- ancient history. I don't blame them. In Europe today, the threat of major conflict is lower than it has ever been. NATO and the European Union have helped to spread peace and stability across the continent by creating partnerships with former adversaries and then opening the door for partners to become Allies.

The democratic consolidation of Europe was an inspiring time. But while we were celebrating the benefits of peace, our definition of 'security' began to change. We now live in a time when bombs can masquerade as shoes or printer cartridges; when cyber-attacks buzz like bees through the Internet; and when, for some, Mutually Assured Destruction is not a warning but a goal. The friendly logic of the old game is long since gone. Fragile states half-way across the globe have become breeding grounds for terrorism, drugs, and the trafficking of weapons or even people. Some thirty countries have or are acquiring ballistic missiles. Every day, cyber-attacks target our banking systems, air traffic control, and power grids.

These are transnational problems requiring multinational solutions. If NATO did not exist, it would have to be invented, because countries with shared values and a shared history of close cooperation can best address these problems together. As the world's premier multilateral security organization, the transatlantic Alliance will play an essential role in solving the challenges of the 21st century.

Today, NATO Heads of State and Government are meeting in Lisbon, Portugal. There, transatlantic leaders will adopt a wide range of measures and reforms designed to meet these unprecedented challenges.

We will agree upon a new Strategic Concept, a mission statement that will guide the Alliance for the next decade.

We will describe how NATO will deal with a range of new and existing challenges including cyber-warfare, nuclear and missile proliferation, and energy security.

We will explain how NATO will modernize by prioritizing modern military capabilities to meet modern needs.

We will pursue an Alliance missile defense for our populations and territory in Europe, and we will invite Russia to cooperate with us.

We will reach out to other nations and organizations, including the United Nations and the European Union, because global challenges require the broadest possible cooperation.

We will announce a long-term partnership agreement with Afghanistan that will reaffirm our commitment to that country. We will continue to support the Afghan government's efforts to establish sovereignty within its borders. And we will do what we can to give economic and social development in



Afghanistan the breathing space it needs to survive. Make no mistake, Afghanistan's developmental challenges are yet enormous. Afghanistan remains one of the poorest countries in the world. Corruption is an endemic problem. The unemployment rate is estimated to be 40 percent. The adult literacy rate is believed to be around 30 percent, and lower still among women.


But there has been real progress. According to the Economist Intelligence Unit, Afghan real GDP has averaged nearly 13% annual growth since 2005, with an estimated 22.5% growth rate in 2009. Seven million Afghan children are enrolled in school, up from only one million under the Taliban. Girls and women have improved access to education and literacy campaigns. NATO can only claim some credit for this progress. The fact is that we did not initially engage in Afghanistan to increase the country's GDP or to improve the lot of Afghan women. We acted because the Taliban gave safe refuge to extremists who had used commercial airliners as weapons of mass destruction, and who later provided inspiration for terror attacks in London and Madrid.

What credit we can claim is owed to the men and women in our armed forces and to the international civilians who have shouldered the colossal task of assisting in the reconstruction of a country while simultaneously confronting a deadly insurgency. They deserve all the thanks we can give them.

All the same, credit is largely owed to the Afghans themselves, who have striven against terrible odds to reconstruct their country in the wake of thirty years of war. We pay tribute to the Afghans for their courage and determination.

Progress in Afghanistan may appear slow at times, and great problems may remain. But it's a start. And if we were to abandon the Afghans, their progress could well prove short-lived. NATO will remain committed to their country because, like it or not, our security is now inextricably tied to theirs.

Those of us whose countries are members of the NATO Alliance are fortunate. We are born with opportunities, we live well by taking advantage of them, and we do so in relative peace. But the security environment no longer bears any semblance to a game, if it ever really did; and we cannot prepare only for the threats of the past. Nowadays, a deluded and jobless young man, following a bloody and apocalyptic vision, can bomb a train station or blow up an airliner in our part of the world for reasons that make sense only to himself, and perhaps not even to him. NATO Alliance leaders at the Lisbon Summit understand that security has changed. We will need the cooperation of all Allies and Partners to address transnational problems so that our children and grandchildren may continue to enjoy the benefits of peace and security.



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 Fax: 582-7044

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New Gadgets, New Worries

Mike Elgan of PC World magazine is predicting that the Christmas season will prove his contention that Apple's iPad is the "Children's Toy of the Year."

"Have you ever seen a 4-year-old play with an iPhone? It's actually kind of shocking," he reported. "Kids take to the iPhone's multitouch user interface like they do trucks or dolls. They instinctively know that the iPhone is a toy, and they nag, cajole and harass their parents into letting them play with it." Because parents are always looking for gadgets to grab their children's attention, Elgan suggested the iPad is "an ideal kid pacifier" and it also works as in-car entertainment, since the parent "doesn't have to put everyone's lives at risk trying to swap DVDs" from the driver's seat to the car.

Skeptics would ask about the cost, starting at \$499 an extravagance in any income bracket. Elgan believes, "Any parent who owns an iPad will be constantly harassed by the kids, even more so than iPhone-owning parents are today. The path of least resistance for parents will be to just get the kids an iPad of their own. I think parents will do this by the millions."

He argued that while adults will debate the iPad's pluses and minuses, "the reaction among children will be different. I believe that in the under-12 market, the iPad will dominate without any real competition and will completely change children's culture."

So what now? Parents will face an entirely new front in the never-ending technological assault on the popular culture. As more and more technology-savvy children get in the routine of watching television online, can parents feel rely on technological help in screening out graphic sex or violence? The broadcasters love to tout their V-chip and self-regulating content warnings, but it is useless. Still, useless is better than nonexistent, and that's what you have in the online world. Studies now show children are watching television on the Internet and on their cell phones with increasing frequency. (The Kaiser Family Foundation reported in January that children spend more time playing with games, songs and videos on their cell phones than in talking on them.)

In a new study, the Parents Television Council discovered that four of the most popular Internet distributors of commercial TV programming are a Wild West of video without warnings. The four are Hulu (made up of NBC/Universal, Fox and Disney/ABC), Fancast (Comcast), Slashcontrol (AOL) and AT&T. Each provider was graded on the effectiveness of its content ratings, homepage content decency, advertiser accountability and parental controls. The report card had three D's and one F (for AT&T).

Can a parent install parental controls on an iPad or laptop? No. Not one of these major online video providers offers a parental-control mechanism or even mentioned "parental control" on their homepage. Hulu and Fancast provided parent options ... if you went searching for a "help" page.

Urban overcomes flood to record latest album



NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Keith Urban had a difficult decision to make in the days after last spring's flood.

The rising Cumberland River wrecked just about every piece of equipment the country music superstar owned, from priceless vintage guitars to his favorite amps. He was scheduled to begin recording the tracks that would eventually become "Get Closer," and he wasn't sure if he should just scrap the whole thing until later.

"I think any musician will tell you: Give us something to make music with and we make music," Urban said. "It felt like we had some really good songs for this record. I felt really good about the songs. The band was ready. We had the studio booked. It wasn't that long ago I only owned one guitar anyway. I made a record with very few instruments in the beginning, so it was making the most of what we're given."

He borrowed a guitar from his guitar tech the first week and things went well enough that he decided to keep going. He added gear over the next few weeks, hitting eBay for a few guitars and amplifiers, and slowly expanded the sonic

palette for the album. He used the first guitar he bought off the Internet to lay down the lilting, addictive riff on lead single, "Put You in a Song," and never looked back.

"I thought, 'Well, let's explore new sounds, new guitars,' and I think from that a real different, not just a sound, but a different feeling came from this record," Urban said.

He ended up with perhaps his most personal album. The eight-track standard release issued by Capitol Records (there's a 15-song Target exclusive as well) reads like a love letter to his wife, Nicole Kidman, though Urban says the album is really about couples and draws from several wells.

Urban hasn't talked in great detail about his losses since that first week in May. He assumed most of his favorite guitars were destroyed and it was a blow. But over the six months since record rains led to 22 deaths in Tennessee and did more than \$2 billion in damage in Nashville alone, luthier Joe Glaser has managed to save some of the most important pieces.

Among them is a 1957 Les Paul Goldtop, worth six figures before Urban bought

it and much more now that his name is attached to it. It's a special guitar with an unmatched sound and Glaser realized he was doing more than cleaning and gluing when he reclaimed it.

"It doesn't matter who somebody is," he said. "If they're good at all, their relationship with their instrument is personal and one-on-one."

Their relationship with their instrument is kind of like their relationship to their dog."

Glaser, who assists in the NasH2O charity that sells some of the stars' damaged instruments to benefit musicians, says he's repaired eight to 10 of Urban's guitars and could keep working on most of the other 50-plus pieces Urban lost if the singer chooses.

Fittingly, the only guitar Urban didn't lose was the one with a lot of personal meaning. That guitar was owned by Waylon Jennings and was a gift from Kidman, who surprised him

with it. He wrote two songs on the album with it: "Right on Back to You" and "Georgia Woods."

"It's such a profound piece of musical history not just for the journey it's had through Waylon's life, but it was given to Reggie Young, who's a legendary session musician here in town," Urban said. "Waylon gave it to Reggie something like 25 years ago. It's got some stories to tell. I wish it could speak."

Brendan Fraser gets insane on a Broadway stage

NEW YORK — Brendan Fraser drew up one of the strangest to-do lists before making his Broadway debut.

First, he wanted to go to Oslo, Norway. There, he hoped to eat pork and gravy, walk by a lake, visit a mental institution, talk to social workers, grab a beer with some car mechanics, hang out at a poetry reading, munch on a hot dog, dial up a phone sex line and buy some comic books and porno.

"Oh yeah," he says. "I also wanted to learn how to swear in Norwegian."

All that was to get into character before hitting the stage in the New York premiere of "Elling," a sort of "Odd Couple" set in modern-day Norway with two recently released mental patients.

That was the plan at least, but Fraser ran out of time at the end of the summer and never got a chance to get to Norway. He relied on notes from his co-star Denis O'Hare, YouTube videos, maps of Oslo and, oh yeah, the script.

"Everything you need to know as far as preparation, whether you're doing Shakespeare or a contemporary piece, should all be right here," he says, pointing to Simon Bent's script. "And if it's not, then there's a clue about where to find it if you're paying attention."

Fraser may be better known for his comedic turns in "Dudley Do-Right" and "Bedazzled," or his action movies such as the cadaver-bashing "The Mummy" franchise, or his more serious film roles like "Gods and Monsters" and "Crash," but



he has also ventured onto the stage.

He played Brick in "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof" in London in 2001 and starred in John Patrick Shanley's "Four Dogs and a Bone" in 1995 at the Geffen Playhouse in Los Angeles. He looks tired but jazzed as he puts the finishing touches on "Elling."

"In the end, it pretty much becomes about just brute memorization and burning calories. You put all the glittery bits aside," he says while munching on almonds in his dressing room at the Ethel Barrymore Theatre.

O'Hare, a Tony Award-winner, says he's been impressed by how Fraser has thrown himself into the role. "This is an actor with immense bravery," O'Hare says. "He has gone flat-out and has never winced once when our director, Doug Hughes, makes a criticism."

The comedy, based on the novels by Ingvar Ambjornsen, was made into a cult, Oscar-nominated foreign-language film and adapted in Norwegian for the stage by Axel Hellstenius and Petter Naess. This English-language version comes to Broadway after a well-received

run in London.

Fraser, 41, remembers liking the film when it made the rounds as an Academy Award screener in 2001 and he kept his copy because he loved it. "For one reason or another, I've been drawn to stories about misfit individuals and unusual friendships," he says.

"Elling" is just that, telling the feel-good story of a wimpy, mother-fixated would-be poet played by O'Hare who strikes a friendship in an asylum with Fraser's bearish former mechanic who loves hot dogs and women though he has yet to actually date one. The two must fend for themselves when state officials release them from an asylum with the warning that they'll go back if they don't show they can live independent lives.

Choosing to do the play offered Fraser a chance to fulfill a lifetime dream of being on Broadway and gave him an opportunity to be closer to his three young sons, who live with his ex-wife in Connecticut.

"You have to look at your calendar, your life. Am I going to do another 'Mummy' movie? Hey, guess what? I have bills to pay, too."



Recent rally in pump prices may have peaked

Filling up at the pump for Thanksgiving weekend will likely cost Americans the most in three years. After that, analysts say, prices should drop as weak winter demand takes effect.

Gasoline prices reached \$2.89 a gallon earlier this week and appeared set to eclipse the high for the year of \$2.92. A number of factors, from rising oil prices to lower U.S. production due to seasonal refinery maintenance, contributed to a 5-cent increase in retail gas prices in the past month.

But oil prices have retreated almost 7 percent in the past week, a decline that will soon show up at the pump. And gasoline demand will tail off once Americans are done with their road trips for the long holiday weekend.

“Probably as soon as the turkey’s done, you’ll start to see prices head back down,” PFGBest analyst Phil Flynn said.

The national average for a gallon of unleaded regular gasoline was \$2.883 Friday, according to AAA, Wright Express and Oil Price Information Service. That’s still about a quarter more than a year ago. Any price above \$2.64 per gallon will be the highest average price on the day before Thanksgiving since gas sold for \$3.09 on Nov. 21, 2007.

Tom Kloza, chief oil analyst at Oil Price Information Service, predicted the national average will drop toward \$2.75 a gallon during the winter.

Oil rose about 14 percent from Labor Day through Nov. 11, bringing up gas prices with it, as the Federal Reserve’s plans to stimulate the U.S. economy weakened the U.S. dollar. That made oil and commodities like gold more of a bargain for buyers who

use other currencies. That reversed in the past week as investors became concerned that China’s effort to slow economic growth would curtail demand for energy.

The price Americans pay at the pump largely depends on the price of oil as well as federal and state taxes.

Motorists who live along the West Coast, in Illinois and Maine are among those paying the highest prices, with the average ranging between \$3.532 a gallon and \$2.995 a gallon. The lowest prices were in the Midwest, Texas and

Colorado, where motorists paid between \$2.740 a gallon and \$2.689 a gallon.

Benchmark oil for December delivery fell 67 cents to \$81.18 in early trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Since the contract expires Friday, many traders have shifted to the January contract, where the price edged down 77cents to \$81.65 a barrel.

In other early Nymex trading in December contracts, heating oil fell 3.08 cents to \$2.2643 a gallon, gasoline lost 3.47 cents to \$2.1936 a gallon



and natural gas added 13.9 cents, or 3.5 percent, to \$4.146 per 1,000 cubic feet.

In London, Brent crude gave up 96 cents to \$84.09 a barrel on the ICE Futures exchange.

Irish, EU, IMF face marathon talks for loan deal

DUBLIN – As EU experts dug through the books of Ireland’s debt-crippled banks, the question moved from whether Ireland will take an international bailout to under what conditions.

On the firing line was Ireland’s prized low business tax, which the government says has lured 1,000 multinationals to Ireland over the past decade but which it may have to give up to satisfy conditions of being rescued.

The Irish rescue is the latest act in Europe’s yearlong drama to prevent mounting debts and deficits from overwhelming the weakest members of the 16-nation eurozone. Greece was saved from bankruptcy in May, and analysts say Portugal could be next in line after Ireland for an EU-IMF lifeboat.

Officials on all sides cautioned that the Dublin talks could stretch into early December, after Ireland gives more clarity on its plans by publishing a four-year outline for slashing euro15 billion (\$20.5 billion) from its deficit forecast this year to reach a stupendous 32 percent of economic output.

The Irish government said the plan, to include euro4.5 billion in cuts and euro1.5 billion in new taxes for 2011 alone, will be published by Tuesday but won’t include any change to its 12.5 percent rate of corporate tax, among the lowest in Europe.

Officials in Germany, France, Britain and Austria argue Ireland should be prepared to raise that rate to help pay off its debts. They say it’s not fair for Ireland to receive aid from EU partners while simultaneously sticking to a tax policy that amounts to unfair competition.

Ireland says the low tax policy is an essential anchor for keeping employers who generate a fifth of Ireland’s gross domestic product and provide the healthiest stream of tax

revenue. Finance Minister Brian Lenihan, speaking ahead of Friday’s talks, said the defense of the 12.5 percent rate was “a red line” that Ireland would not allow the IMF to cross. For Lenihan and Prime Minister Brian Cowen, the low corporate tax is one of the few points of unity with Ireland’s opposition Fine Gael party. Giving it up might be the death sentence for Cowen’s government, whose approval ratings are languishing at 11 percent.

But Ireland’s hand has been forced by a recent run on deposits at Irish banks, which are already receiving a minimum euro45 billion bailout. Allied Irish Banks said Friday it has lost a euro13 billion (\$18 billion), or 17 percent, of its total deposit base since June. It also announced plans to sell euro6.6 billion (\$9.05 billion) in new shares next month likely taking the government’s stake in the bank from 18 percent to more than 90 percent.

The European Central Bank has been stemming deposit losses with short-term loans that have ballooned to a reported euro130 billion, a quarter of the ECB’s eurozone loan book. But the ECB’s unlimited supply of liquidity to banks is likely to end as the central banks continues to phase out its financial crisis support measures, adding pressure on the Irish government.

Ireland’s representative on the Frankfurt-based bank, Irish Central Bank governor Patrick Honohan, said Thursday he expects Ireland to receive a credit line worth tens of billions of euro that would serve as a backstop for Irish banks struggling to access funds elsewhere.

Critics of Ireland’s low tax on business profits say raising it would be the quickest way to increase state income without hurting consumers. According to Eurostat,



corporate tax rates in the eurozone average 25.7 percent, and only Cyprus and Bulgaria are lower than Ireland with rates of 10 percent.

Germany and France, whose rates stand at 29.8 percent and 34.4 percent respectively, have spent the past decade grumbling as some of their own companies and a disproportionate share of U.S. multinationals choose Ireland as their EU headquarters.

“There’s only one real reason for that, namely the avoidance of taxes,” said Markus Ferber, a member of the European Parliament for the German Christian Social Union, part of Chancellor Angela Merkel’s governing coalition.

Pentagon “aware” of China Internet rerouting

WASHINGTON — The Defense Department is aware that Internet traffic was rerouted briefly through China earlier this year, a Pentagon spokesman said Friday, referring to what a congressionally appointed panel has described as a hijack.

State-owned China Telecom sent a false notice that caused traffic to Secretary of Defense Robert Gates’ office and other U.S. government, military and corporate sites to go through China during an 18-minute stretch on April 8, the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission charged in its annual report on Wednesday.

Marine Colonel David Lapan, a Defense Department spokesman, said, “We’re aware that on the 8th of April Internet traffic was rerouted through China.”

He added at one point that he did not know if “we’ve determined whether that particular incident was done with some malicious intent or

not.”

He later said there was no evidence that anything malicious had occurred, a position he repeated when pressed about the discrepancy in his remarks.

In Beijing, China’s Foreign Ministry on Friday condemned the commission’s report to the U.S. Congress on China’s military capabilities and economic policies, saying it distorted reality and was symptomatic of Cold War thinking.

China Telecom separately has denied the charge that it “hijacked” U.S. Internet traffic by sending false notifications that prompted other servers to route traffic through China on the assumption that it was the shortest route.

The commission said evidence did not clearly show whether the incident was perpetrated intentionally “and, if so, to what ends. However, computer security researchers have noted that the capability could enable severe malicious activities,” the report said.



Commissioner Larry Wortzel, a retired U.S. Army colonel who served two tours as a military attache in China, told reporters that the incident could have let someone mine email addresses and then send authentic-looking messages bearing attachments with malicious code or other harmful software.

“When I see things like this happen, I ask: ‘Who might be interested in all the communication from the entire Department of Defense and the federal government? It’s probably not a graduate student from Shanghai University,’” Wortzel said.

Lapan, the Pentagon spokesman, said the Defense

Department’s internal networks the Internet’s so-called dot.mil domain would not have been affected by any improper rerouting of traffic through Chinese servers.

“We do have tools to protect any of the traffic that goes outside” the internal networks, he added, referring to encryption and devices that warn when Internet traffic is being rerouted.

Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, who led a Senate Intelligence Committee cyber task force that submitted a classified report to the panel in July on cyber threats, said on Wednesday that certain threats cannot be countered without the U.S. government’s unique

“authorities and capabilities.”

In a Senate floor speech, the Rhode Island Democrat reiterated a proposal to create a “dot.secure” domain to protect critical infrastructure such as power grids, financial networks, transportation and communications hubs.

“We simply cannot leave that core infrastructure on which the life and death of Americans depends without better security,” Whitehouse said.

The U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission was set up in 2000 to examine the security implications of growing economic ties with China.



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Study suggests mammograms under 50 if family risk

LONDON – Women in their 40s with a moderately high family risk of breast cancer should get yearly mammograms, a new British study suggests.

Though such testing is standard in the U.S. for that age group with a family history, women in Europe who have an intermediate family risk are not always offered screening if they are under 50.

British researchers followed 6,710 women under 50 who had a moderate breast cancer risk meaning women who meet criteria such as having one close female relative who had breast cancer in her 40s or younger. Such women have double to triple the risk of having breast cancer as the average woman.

The women were monitored for about five years and given a yearly mammogram for about four years. A total of 136 women from the group were diagnosed with breast cancer during the course of the study.

Doctors thought it would be unethical to have a comparison group that was not offered screening. So they used two previous studies: of women who were not screened and of breast cancer patients with a family history.

The study was too short to show whether the screening saved lives, but using tumor size and severity, Duffy and colleagues estimated annual mammograms reduced the death rate by 20 percent in women with a moderate family breast cancer risk.

The tumors they found were also smaller and less likely to have spread when compared to women



who hadn't been screened and later had cancer. The scientists calculated two women would be saved for every 1,000 women screened over a decade.

The research was published online Thursday in the medical journal Lancet Oncology. It was paid for by the U.K. National Health Service Technology Assessment.

In Britain and elsewhere in Europe, women can get mammograms every two years from age 50 to 70 unless they have a high risk of breast cancer, in which case they may be tested earlier.

"At the moment, whether or not women with a moderate family risk get tested varies considerably," said Stephen Duffy, professor of cancer screening at Queen Mary University of London and one of the study authors.

"We hope our findings will push governments to make this kind of mammography universal for these women."

Policies and opinions vary on whether women at average risk should be screened before 50. A U.S. health task force last year concluded that women at average risk for breast cancer don't need mammograms in their 40s but not all groups agreed with that decision.

"All women over 40, both those at normal risk and intermediate and high risk, should be getting mammograms on a regular basis," said Otis Brawley, chief medical officer of the American Cancer Society. He was not linked to the study.

Karsten Jorgensen of the Nordic Cochrane Centre in Copenhagen said doctors are overtreating breast cancer and many women who are screened will test positive for a cancer that would never have threatened their health.

"Any woman needs to consider the harms and benefits carefully before she decides if she wants to be screened," he said.

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UN urges 'social' approach against genital mutilation

ROME – The UN children's agency on Thursday proposed a new approach for ending female genital mutilation, saying campaigns should work with communities instead of fighting local traditions.

"One of the key factors that motivate parents' decision to have their girls cut -- 'to do what is best for their daughters' -- may also spur a decision to stop the practice," the report by an Italy-based UNICEF institute said.

But this can happen only "once social norms evolve and social expectations change," said the report by the Innocenti institute, which analysed community-based initiatives in Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Senegal and Sudan.

Campaigns in these five countries included

important members of local communities, such as religious leaders, as well as using more traditional methods through the local media and working with national governments.

"Rather than 'fighting' against local culture and presenting traditional behaviours as negative, effective programmes propose alternative mechanisms to signal adherence to shared community values," the report said.

Female genital mutilation (FGM), also known as female genital cutting, is an initiation procedure involving the partial or total removal of the clitoris of young girls and is widely practiced in North Africa and the Middle East.

It can lead to infections and other serious long term health problems.

Holding Their Liquor Makes Women Much Sicker than Men

Some women may be able to hold their liquor as well as men do, but there's no equality when it comes to whose health suffers more for it. Excessive alcohol use takes a higher toll on women's bodies, with a greater risk of liver, brain or heart damage, among other devastating conditions.

"We are very concerned about the fact that more young women are starting to drink in harmful ways, including binge drinking," said Dr. Deidra Roach of the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism.

A decades-long study of data on more than 500,000 people nationwide indicated women ages 21 to 23 were the only group whose binge drinking has increased. The research, reported in the July 2009 issue of the Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, showed a 30 percent jump between 1979 and 2006 in women who binge drink (that is, who down at least four alcoholic drinks in rapid succession).

The physical differences between the sexes play a significant role in how their bodies metabolize alcohol. Women have more body fat and less water in their systems than men do, as well as lower levels of an enzyme important in the breakdown of alcohol, according to the NIAAA. This means they experience the effects of drinking more

quickly and for a longer time than men.

Of the estimated 17.6 million Americans who abuse alcohol, 5.3 million of them are female, according to the National Institutes of Health.

"Because women are smaller than men . . . the same amount of alcohol will be more concentrated in a woman's body than a man's body," said Roach, a health scientist administrator in the NIAAA's Division of Treatment and Recovery Research. "This means when a man and a woman drink the same amount of alcohol, in general, the woman's internal organs will be exposed to more alcohol than the man's."

A bevy of health problems For women, the consequences of drinking include damage to organs and increased rates of chronic diseases.

Liver damage: Women develop alcohol-induced liver disease - including hepatitis and cirrhosis - over a shorter period of time and after consuming less alcohol than men, according to the NIAAA. It may be the female hormone estrogen that increases these risks.

Brain damage: MRI scans have shown that certain brain regions are smaller in women alcoholics than in other women and in men who are alcoholics, even after measurements are adjusted for head size, according to the NIAAA.



Heart disease: Many studies have shown a drink or two per day is heart-healthy. However, other research shows similar rates of severe damage to the heart muscle among women and men who are alcoholics, despite the fact that women who are alcoholics consume 60 percent less on average over their lifetimes, according to the NIAAA.

Breast cancer: The risks of developing breast cancer go up dramatically for heavy female drinkers. According to Loyola Marymount University, a large analysis showed the risk of developing the disease jumped 9 percent for each 10-gram increase (0.35 ounces) in daily alcohol consumption, up to 60 grams (2 ounces).

Violent injury: Not only are

women put at greater risk of being assaulted, sexually or otherwise physically, by heavy drinking, according to the NIAAA, there has been an increase over the past decade in the proportion of women drivers to men drivers involved in fatal car crashes. Unhealthy drinking habits place women at greater risk for a variety of adverse health and social consequences, including becoming infected with the AIDS virus, Roach said.

"We are seeing a growing body of evidence that binge drinking is a major risk factor for acquiring HIV among some groups of women," she said.

A disease that "sneaks up" on you

Even less serious conditions, such as sinus or bladder infections, can be brought on by alcohol abuse.

Joyce Rebeta-Burditt of Los Angeles said she had chronic sinus infections when she drank excessively 40 years ago. Rebeta-Burditt has since become a UCLA-certified alcohol recovery expert and the author of two books about recovering alcoholic women.

"Alcoholism is very dehydrating," she said. "I didn't appreciate how sick I was physically. I got IBS [irritable bowel syndrome] from alcohol irritation, and I still have bouts."

Rebeta-Burditt compared alcoholism to diseases such as diabetes that "sneak up on people," making it difficult to know when the line has been crossed.

"The difference is, most people know diabetes is an illness and don't know that alcoholism is, too," she said.

Roach said the NIAAA encourages health care professionals to screen women of all ages for problem drinking, because symptoms are so easily overlooked. For example, in older women alcohol may be a "hidden culprit" contributing to depression, frequent falling or heart failure, she said.

"Neither health professionals nor patients should ever simply assume that alcohol could not be a problem," Roach said.

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Cólera en Haití se expandirá a República Dominicana

GINEBRA (Reuters) - La epidemia de cólera en Haití inevitablemente se expandirá a República Dominicana pero es probable que allí cause menos problemas, señaló el viernes la Organización Mundial de la Salud (OMS).

Muchos haitianos trabajan en República Dominicana y dado que las infecciones por cólera suelen no mostrar síntomas de la enfermedad -que se transmite a través del agua- podría cruzar fácilmente la frontera, dijo el portavoz de la OMS Gregory Hartl en una conferencia de prensa en Ginebra.

“Es completamente esperable que haya casos en República Dominicana. Estamos viendo los primeros signos de esos casos y estamos trabajando con el Gobierno de República Dominicana para que se prepare”, manifestó Hartl.

Más de 1.110 personas murieron en Haití por el reciente brote de cólera y más de 18.000 han contraído la enfermedad.

La infección es tratable con sales de rehidratación oral, o soluciones caseras fabricadas con un litro de agua, una cucharada de sal y seis de azúcar. Pero el cólera puede resultar letal si no es detectado a tiempo.

El portavoz de la OMS Christian Lindmeier dijo que en República Dominicana las mejores condiciones de salubridad harían que la enfermedad diarreica sea menos peligrosa.

“No esperamos que (la tasa de enfermedad severa y muerte) sea tan elevada como en Haití”, señaló Lindmeier.

Funcionarios médicos en Florida informaron un caso confirmado de infección por cólera en un residente que visitó a su familia en Haití, pero añadieron que el riesgo de un brote en Estados Unidos es mínimo.



Un hombre protestando contra Naciones Unidas en Puerto Príncipe. Nov 18 2010 La epidemia de cólera en Haití inevitablemente se expandirá a República Dominicana pero es probable que allí cause menos problemas, señaló el viernes la Organización Mundial de la Salud (OMS). REUTERS/Allison Shelley

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